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Turkey Carrying Out 'Warning Flights' on Armenian Border

LD0304115993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1124 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 3 Apr—Turkey has halted the passage of foreign aid to Armenia over its territory in connection with the stepping up of attacks by Armenian troops against Azerbaijan, the "MILLIYET" newspaper reports today. The Turkish Air Force is in a state of heightened combat readiness and is carrying out warning flights on the border with Armenia. Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel is in constant contact with Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey. Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has called on the heads of the Russian and U.S. foreign policy departments to stop the army's offensive.

Kozyrev, Turkey's Cetin Discuss Conflict

LD0304091493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0702 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Turkish counterpart Hikmet Cetin had a telephone conversation on Friday about the worsening of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR- TASS.

They both expressed serious concern over the escalation of armed confrontation, the expansion of which may have serious consequences both for Armenia and Azerbaijan, and for the region in general.

The ministers agreed that an immediate ceasefire is essential for coming closer to a political settlement. They reiterated their readiness to promote the holding of peace talks.

Turkey's Ozal Favors Force To Stop Armenian Offensive

LD0504084193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0735 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 5 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—President Turgut Ozal of Turkey has spoken in favor of using force to stop the Armenian offensive against Azerbaijan. HURRIYET reports today that while flying to Tashkent the head of the Turkish Republic told journalists: "One should not be afraid of military intervention." "We should show our teeth," he stressed. He believes that Armenia is receiving weapons from the West and from Russia.

Turkey's Ozal To Visit Central Asia, Azerbaijan

LD0404201293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1937 GMT 4 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Yerovchenkov]

[Text] Nicosia April 4 TASS—Turkish President Turgut Ozal said on Sunday he was happy to be the first Turkish president to visit new independent states of Central Asia and Azerbaijan. Before leaving Ankara on a ten-day tour of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, he told Turkish journalists that the five countries had taken of late considerable steps to strengthen their independence and to enter the international community as equal sovereign states, although their political, economic and social conditions were very difficult.

Ankara Radio and Television said on Sunday Ozal noted that Turkey regard as its political and moral duty to help as much as it can to these republics which have common cultural, linguistic and religious features with Turkey. Turkey is helping them in the field of communication, granting them credits, developing joint projects, expanding trade and opening broad opportunities for secondary and higher education for their citizens.

Having signed a large number of various agreements with Central Asian and Transcaucasian Turkic-speaking countries, Turkey formed a solid foundation of cooperation, which is very satisfactory, Ozal said.

The Turkish president expressed the confidence that his visit will make an important contribution to the strengthening of bonds of friendship with Turkic states and to the implementation of specific arrangements in various areas with republics of Central Asia and Azerbaijan.

Black Sea Command Criticizes Ukrainian Defense Ministry

OW0304163893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The command of the Black Sea Fleet has evaluated the recent statement of Ukraine's Defense Ministry on the Black Sea Fleet as an attempt to disavow the signature of the republic's President put to the Yalta agreement with Russia.

The statement distributed by the Black Sea Fleet press center on Saturday [3 April] condemns position of the Ukrainian military department which has announced that it is examining a possibility to denounce the Yalta agreement on the Black Sea Fleet between Russia and Ukraine through the republic's parliament.

The Black Sea Fleet press center notes, according to the statement of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, bypassing the country's President it intends to denounce the agreement signed and highly appreciated by the President. "Consequently, the Defense Ministry's statement can be assessed as an attempt to disavow signature of the President, the commander—in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, put to the Yalta agreement through the supreme legislative body," the press center underlines.

It warns that such actions can lead to stirring up of inter-ethnic hatred at the Fleet because they are inflicting moral and material damage to both states and actually drawing the Black Sea Fleet out of the sphere of negotiations. The statement of the Black Sea Fleet press center points out that everything is unfortunately being done on the eve of the next round of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on the Fleet.

The statement of the press center rejects assertions of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry that the Black Sea ships fulfill "unknown tasks" in the region of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The press center indicated that the Fleet's ships have evacuated more than 40,000 refugees, among them citizens of Ukraine, at the request of the Ukrainian leadership as well.

Military Leaders Discuss Legal, Social Issues in Moscow

LD0504093293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0833 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—The military of the CIS states have gathered in Moscow on Monday [5 April] for a conference entitled "Legal and Social Protection of the Military as a Factor of Military and Political Stability in the CIS" to discuss problems of social welfare and legal protection of army personnel and coordinate efforts of the CIS states in this sphere.

The conference is also being attended by representatives of the parliaments, defence ministries, military courts of the CIS states and military prosecutors, as well as members of the Committee for Foreign War Veterans under the CIS Council of Heads of Government, the Council of CIS Border Troops Commanders and diplomats from the Baltic states.

The participants will discuss several draft agreements which then will be submitted to the CIS interparliamentary assembly, the Council of Heads of State and the Council of CIS Defence Ministers.

The documents to be discussed include the basic principles of unification of CIS states' military laws, social welfare and legal guarantees for the military both in active service and in reserve and their families, an agreement on the principles and terms of interaction of military law enforcement bodies to ensure the rights and legitimate interests of CIS combined armed forces personnel and a protocol of intention between military law enforcement bodies.

Shaposhnikov Comments

LD0504103493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—"I consider the Commonwealth as a new form of interaction and cooperation between brotherly nations. The establishment of the Commonwealth should make the life of our people and armies better. Military service should also become easier and more humane," CIS joint armed forces commander Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Monday, Shaposhnikov said it is time to put an end to "unlimited sovereignty" and "Transfer our relations from self-determination which has already occurred and which no one threatens to real integrity in economic and defence spheres with tight coordination of all laws by which people live, primarily the military."

Shaposhnikov stressed that the conference "legal and social protection of the military as a factor of military and political stability in the CIS" that opened in Moscow on Monday will discuss problems of social welfare and legal protection of Army personnel and coordinate efforts of the CIS states in this sphere.

The documents to be discussed include the basic principles of unification of CIS states' military laws, social welfare and legal guarantees for the military both in active service and in reserve and their families, an agreement on the principles and terms of interaction of military law enforcement bodies to ensure the rights and legitimate interests of CIS joint armed forces personnel and a protocol of intention between military law enforcement bodies.

Shaposhnikov stressed the need to set up a CIS security council, adding that a draft agreement on the establishment of such body has already been prepared. It will be submitted to the CIS heads of state at their next meeting at the end of April.

He also called for creating interstate law enforcement bodies in the CIS.

Head of Coordinating Consultative Committee Interviewed

LD0204181493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Interview with Ivan Korotchenya, head of the CIS Coordinating Consultative Committee, by unidentified announcer; place and date not given—recorded; Korotchenya speaks in Russian fading to English translation]

[Text] Negotiators from the CIS countries in Minsk, Belarus, have officially decided on the formation of a new body of the Commonwealth, the Coordinating Consultative Committee. Here is chief coordinator of the working group to prepare and hold Commonwealth summit meetings, Ivan Korotchenya, and the first question to him is:

[Announcer] How will the Commonwealth Coordinating Committee differ from the working body which you lead?

[Korotchenya] The new body should be stronger than, say, the working group. It must take under its control the implementation of the earlier signed agreements, coordinate actions inside the community, and see to it that the decisions are materialized. Naturally, the new body should have high-ranking people who are responsible for Commonwealth affairs and economic matters in their countries. They could gather in Minsk every month and take decisions. The Commonwealth should stop acting just as a clerk collecting documents. The new committee should somehow affect the course of events in the Commonwealth, primarily in the economic sphere. The concept for a new body was submitted to the heads of government who met in Moscow recently, and they approved it.

[Announcer] Who will head the new committee?

[Korotchenya] Each state will head the committee for six months. What is important is that people responsible for Commonwealth and economic problems should be elected to the committee. If so, the committee will operate efficiently. With local problems in view, the committee's head, meeting with his colleagues in Minsk, may be well informed about the real state of affairs. For example, what decisions do not work. He may come to [words indistinct] and affect the developments. Such an approach makes me hope that the Commonwealth may make a breakthrough in terms of relationships and mutual understanding.

[Announcer] The committee is not a standing body, is it, so how will it conduct day to day work with the documents?

[Korotchenya] It has been decided to form its executive secretariat. It will include on a quota or rotation basis representatives of states who will work in Minsk at a high professional level. I believe there cannot be any other level. The secretariat must include people who enjoy prestige in society and who have experience in international organizations. If so, the secretariat will be able to prepare documents and perform other functions entrusted to it by other Commonwealth bodies, such as the Council of the Heads of State, the Council of the Heads of Government, and so on. So it will be at work on a quite different basis. These two bodies, the secretariat, a standing one, and the second one, vested with power, will possibly inject a new life into Commonwealth activities.

[Announcer] Are there opponents of these bodies among the Commonwealth countries?

[Korotchenya] Turkmenistan, for example, says that it does not want any central bodies. Ukraine opposes any central ruling and delegating roles. However, now Ukraine agrees with such an approach. Some people show caution to the idea of a committee. I believe if the committee were a standing body, this would cause a negative reaction among many members. But since the committee's deputy prime minister will be elected in his own country by parliament, or will be approved on the recommendation of the president or the prime minister, such an approach suits the majority. The main thing is that such a body could smooth all the negative moments that we have following the collapse of the Soviet Union, first of all in the economy. But I in no way believe that other issues associated with the Commonwealth activities are less important.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 3 Apr

LD0304071293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0531 GMT 3 Apr

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 3 ITAR-TASS—The press gives wide coverage to the Russian-American summit which begins in Vancouver today. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA believes that "if Clinton's intention to help his Moscow counterpart is not supported by the majority in congress, it is quite possible that the emphasis in tackling the Russian problem will be transferred to the G7 level".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes without comment the U.S. President's speech in Annapolis, Maryland, in which he set forth the goals and principles of his administration's policy with regard to Russia and the problem of its economic support. The newspaper chose as the headline of the article Clinton's words that it is support, not charity.

PRAVDA's commentary gives a negative assessment of the forthcoming summit. It writes: "On the day of the beginning of the Yeltsin-Clinton meeting one has to

admit, although it is painful, that despite all campaigning, the summit is a stillborn diplomatic child. The Vancouver meeting will not bring any results capable of making a perceptible impact of Yeltsin's political career, or speed up market-oriented reforms in Russia either."

TRUD, the publication of trade unions, carries a short report about Yeltsin's departure for Vancouver.

The newspaper also publishes an article dealing with the referendum, which is scheduled for April 25. It points out that two out of four questions, included in it, can hardly be described as changing or amending the Russian Constitution. "It is probably the understanding of that fact that forced the leadership of the parliament to submit for the discussion on Thursday a number of amendments to the law on the referendum. One of them suggested that people's deputies amend the law in such a way that the vote-counting procedure will be established depending on the questions, put up for a referendum. It is not the first time that we are facing the situation when the legislators are suggested to change the law, in order to make it compatible with the decision already taken," the newspaper writes.

Touching upon the domestic political developments, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA calls attention to the law on the state border of the Russian Federation, passed by the parliament on April 1. "Of course, many people would like to know with what countries Russia will have a 'transparent' border. The law says nothing about it. It only sets the guidelines for working out the border regime. Besides, the problem cannot be settled unilaterally. For example, Ukraine has already created 35 customs posts. If the Ukrainian leadership toughens the border regime, Russia will have no other way but to follow suit," the newspaper writes.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article by its correspondent in Kyrgyzstan K. Bayalinov about a complicated situation in the republic. "The situation here is very much like that in Russia: growing confrontation between the president and the parliament, disagreement between the prime minister and the vice president and an open squabble among the president's associates," he writes. In several day Askar Akayev, left almost without a team and abandoned by those who supported him not long ago, will face the parliament alone. There is no reason to believe that the parliamentary majority will be merciful to the president, the correspondent believes.

PRAVDA carries an interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Russia, recently registered at the Ministry of Justice.

Writing about the forthcoming Russian-American summit, ROSSIISKIYE VESTI points out that the talks will focus on material and financial support for Russia. Judging by the statements, made by Washington and Ottawa officials, Yeltsin, who was strongly criticised by the opposition at the recent Congress of People's Deputies, will be given political support.

The newspaper comments on changes in the Russian Government and, specifically, on the fact that Georgiy Khizha, a very experienced industrial manager, is now holding one of the key posts in it. The newspaper writes that this reflects the main difference between the policy to be pursued by Viktor Chernomyrdin and that of his predecessor Yegor Gaydar: Chernomyrdin's policy is going to be more pragmatic, more down-to-earth while the overall course towards the reforming of the national economy will be preserved.

Yeltsin Leaves Moscow for Vancouver Summit

Predeparture News Conference

LD0204201093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1957 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin left Moscow for Vancouver today.

"There are about 25 questions we will discuss with the newly-elected U.S. President at the meeting," Yeltsin told a news conference before his departure from Moscow.

The president said it will be a comprehensive trip to include a stop in Magadan. In Yeltsin's words, he has not visited the area, although promised the visit to Magadan residents. He will meet the local public and heads and learn about problems of the Magadan region.

The next leg will be Vancouver—a neutral territory between Russia and the United States. The meeting with President Clinton will be held on Saturday and Sunday.

"The President has many questions, including debates at the recent Deputies' Congress, social issues, economy and foreign policy," Yeltsin told correspondents.

The Russian president also plans to meet Canadian Premier Brian Mulroney to solve specific cooperation issues for 1993.

On his way back, Yeltsin will stop in Bratsk to visit the local aluminum plant. The latter has many problems and the president wants to help their solution.

Asked who will replace the president during his trip, Boris Yeltsin said "I will. I have telephone both in my car and in my plane".

Speaking of the trip, he said they will focus on direct bilateral trade, including medicines and foodstuffs. These issues are major ones for 1993, he stressed. In the words of Boris Yeltsin, the Americans and President Clinton want to considerably expand medicines and food trade volumes.

Another issue to be discussed is lifting of limits on U.S. trade with Russia. The economic set will be the most difficult at the upcoming meeting. "As the START'2 treaty has been signed and the basic problem has been solved, economic issues will be a priority. 1993 will be the year of powerful inflow of goods in Russia," he said. The president gave preference to direct contacts with Northern and Far Eastern areas, where the situation is not good.

"West Germany invested 100 billions to do away with the communist hydra in East German lands. That is the price!," said the president, asked about a possible amount of Western aid to Russia.

Stops Over in Magadan

LD0304051893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0433 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Magadan 3 Apr—"No all-encompassing change of course in our relations with the United States is envisaged; on the contrary, Mr. Clinton is set on developing cooperation between us, and that is what we are banking on," Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced today on arrival in Magadan. He is making a brief stopover here on his way to Vancouver for the U.S.-Russian summit meeting.

The president said that 25-30 issues would be discussed at the summit, including bilateral relations, international problems, and local crises. Political, economic, and trade issues would also be examined.

The head of the Magadan Adminstration, Gennadiy Dorofeyev, told ITAR-TASS that talks between the Magadan oblast leadership and the president would deal mainly with issues such as state welfare guarantees for people in the far north, and also drafting of government measures to promote prospecting for and development of gas and oil fields in the Sea of Okhotsk. The oblast leadership is planning to hold an international tender to attract foreign companies.

The president of Russia left the airport for the oblast center, which now has a population of over 160,000. The schedule for his visit, which is due to last a few hours, includes a tour of a fish-processing factory and of a border guard unit, and meetings with local people.

The Russian president's brief stay in the town will end with a meeting with oblast leaders, after which he will fly out to Vancouver.

Interviewed at Magadan Airport

LD0304112593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent I.Barchugov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Yesterday evening Boris Yeltsin left for Vancouver where his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton is to take place. This is a complex visit and on the way to Canada Yeltsin visits Magadan and on the way back he visits Bratsk. The meeting between the U.S. and Russian presidents has already been in preparation by both sides for a long time and it is not a somewhat emergency meeting on providing aid to Russia.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] What issues do you associate with the social situation in our country?

[Yeltsin] There are many issues, issues of direct trade, issues of medicines and food. In 1993 the Americans themselves, and on the initiative of President Clinton

himself, want to expand considerably the volumes of trade, especially in the goods I have mentioned. They will be discussed.

Well, of course, the COCOM restrictions prohibiting Russia from selling uranium, which are still in force, will be discussed. We are still not allowed to do this. Why are we not allowed to launch commercial satellites? We are not allowed. An agreement should be reached on all these issues.

[Correspondent] What will be the most difficult issue?

[Yeltsin] Economic issues will, perhaps, be the most difficult ones. [end recording]

The third package of problems to be discussed in Vancouver is the settlement of international crisis situations in former Yugoslavia, Angola, in the Middle East, and conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union. The parties are to define measures for preventing and simulating crisis situations in the world.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified corespondent] Who will stay in charge when you go to Canada?

[Yeltsin] I will. I have telephones on board the plane and in the car—everywhere. I do not hand over the controls as well as the button. [end recording]

However, prior to departure, the president talked to Barannikov, Grachev, and Yerin longer than with any others.

Arrives in Vancouver

LD0304171293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Vancouver April 3 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Vancouver on Saturday for a summit meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will raise one of the most important post-World War Two topics during their summit—the strengthening of peace and international security, new steps in nuclear disarmament and the settlement of regional conflicts.

A new item is included into the agenda which deals with securing the success of Russian reforms. Talks will centre on the stabilisation of the rouble, support to democracy and private enterprise, control over inflation and the problem of the former Soviet external debt.

According to White House spokesman George Stephanopoulos, the success of Russian reforms is a necessary condition also for the security and prosperity of the American people. Investments into Russia today will save billions of dollars of defence spendings, according to him.

Summit meetings between Moscow and Washington began during the Second World War when the USA and the USSR were playing the key role among the four anti-Nazi allies. Former U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman several times met the then Soviet leadership and the main topic was how to accelerate the defeat of Adolf Hitler.

In 1967 U.S. President Lyndon Johnson met with Aleksey Kosygin in New Jersey to discuss the deterrence concept which boiled down to the principle that nuclear catastrophe can be averted if both adversaries realise that the other side has enough power for a crushing blow even if attacked first.

In 1972 the White House and the Kremlin initiated the 20-year old process of arms reductions which resulted in new framework agreements signed by Yeltsin and former U.S. President George Bush. The agreements provide for major cuts in nuclear arsenals of both countries by the beginning of the next century.

The historic START-1 Treaty was signed between the USA and the USSR at the Moscow summit in 1991. In June 1992 Bush and Yeltsin agreed on more drastic cuts in armaments which were fixed in the START-2 Treaty signed during the latest summit meeting in Moscow in January 1993.

Yeltsin Meets With Canadian Officials

Welcomed by Mulroney

LD0304180993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1730 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Russian President Boris Yeltsin today arrived in Vancouver, a major city on Canada's Pacific Ocean seaboard, where on 3-4 April he will have a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton. And now over live to our own correspondent in Vancouver, Viktor Levin:

[Levin] Immediately after his arrival in Vancouver, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, together with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who had met him, set off for the University of British Columbia where now, at the residence of the rector, a conversation is already taking place between the leaders of the two states.

It is there that a little later today that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin will meet Bill Clinton, who will arrive in Vancouver in exactly an hour.

In Vancouver's international airport, the Canadians met the Russian president enthusiastically. The Russian and Canadian national anthemns were played. Yeltsin inspected a guard of honor. A salute was fired. Drizzle somewhat darkened the ceremony, but it did not detract from its warmth.

Boris Nikolayevich did not make any statements; he did not approach journalists, which we had very much hoped for and counted on. But there probably are reasons for this.

The meeting is a working one and to all appearances its participants decided not to pour fuel on the fire of suppositions, predictions, hopes, and doubts. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, I would say that the summit promises to be an important event, and its results may play a beneficial role for Russia, the United States, and the world as a whole.

Mulroney, Yeltsin Meet Journalists

LD0304200393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Immediately after the Russian president arrived in Vancouver today he had talks with the Canadian prime minister. After the talks, Boris Yeltsin and Brian Mulroney met with journalists.

[Begin recording] [Mulroney, in English with superimposed Russian translation] Well, I just want to officially welcome President Yeltsin to Canada. We've had a very good, a brief bilateral... [previous two sentences untranslated from English fading into translation] In the last few years we have been trying to help Russia, and we are continuing that. On the basis of a bilateral declaration we'll be cooperating with President Clinton and the G-7 to satisfy ourselves that the Russian people understand how highly we value to the political measures that are directed toward strengthening democracy and freedom. And what we're mainly pursuing is freedom in Russia.

That is why we are glad to welcome our friend, President Yeltsin, to Canada. We will cooperate closely with him and wish him all the best. Mr President.

[Yeltsin] I am very glad to be once again on hospitable Canadian soil. This is my first time in Vancouver, and Canada is the only country in the world that I have now visited three times. And I must say that each meeting bears great and good fruit. Now, as they say, history is being forged, now, in Russia, which is carrying out its reforms, with difficulty, in harsh conditions, but you must understand that in Russia one social system is being replaced by another social system; and that is why it is difficult. That is why the communists want to stage a comeback and return to the way things were - to throw Russia back to where it was before.

But all the same I am confident that thanks to the fact that the international community is also now plugging [podklyuchayetsya] into, with all its might, Russia's problems, and into the support these reforms, we will nevertheless manage to carry out out this reform. [end recording]

More Yeltsin Remarks

LD0304212793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2020 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Vadim Matyash, Yuriy Sizov, and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Excerpts] Vancouver, 3 Apr—At the conclusion of a bilateral meeting that was held here at the residence of the president of the university of the Canadian province of British Columbia, President Boris Yeltsin and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney held a brief meeting with journalists, in the course of which they answered a number of their questions. [passage omitted]

B.Yeltsin said: I am very glad to be once again on hospitable Canadian soil. This is my first time in Vancouver, and Canada is the only country in the world that I have now visited three times. And I must say that each meeting bears great and good fruit. Now, as they say, history is being forged. Now Russia is carrying out its reforms with difficulty, under harsh conditions, but you must understand that in Russia one social system is being replaced by another social system, and that is why it is difficult. That is why the Communists want to stage a comeback and return to the way things were—to throw Russia back to where it was before. But all the same, I am confident that thanks to the fact that the international community is also now plugging into, with all its might, Russia's problems and into the support for these reforms, we will nevertheless manage to carry out these reforms.

I am grateful to the Canadian Government and prime minister, my friend Brian, that this time we have been submitted a very specific package of support of reforms aimed directly at satisfying people's needs. This package concerns such spheres as health care, the private sector, small businesses, agricultural production, and so forth. And all this has been noted in great detail. This is Brian Mulroney's style. I am very grateful to him for this.

Answering a question on the future fate of his reforms, B. Yeltsin stated: As long as President Yeltsin is in Russia, these reforms will definitely be implemented.

Speaking of the amounts of aid needed by Russia, the president noted: A little is bad and a lot is bad. A little is bad because this won't make it possible to deal with problems. A lot is also bad because this will be used by the Communists for criticism. The opposition will criticize us for wanting to subject ourselves to Western bondage. We need optimum amounts that can preserve the reforms and not let the revanchists come to power.

Pledge of Continued Reforms

LD0304205893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2045 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents]

[Text] Vancouver April 4 TASS—"As long as there is President Yeltsin in power in Russia, then definitely the reforms will continue", the Russian president told reporters on Saturday after a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Boris Yeltsin thanked Mulroney for the concrete package of aid proposed to Russia this time, referring to Canadian pledge to provide additional finances for Russia.

The aid concerns such spheres as health care, private enterprise, agricultural production. "And everything is

shared in detail. That is Brian Mulroney's style. I am very grateful to him for this", Yeltsin said.

Speaking on the amount of the necessary Western help, the Russian president said that optimal sums are necessary.

"Too much is not very good either. Too little is not good because it is not enough to enable you to solve problems, while on the other hand too much can be bad because it would be used by communists to target us", the president said.

"The opposition is going to say in that case that we are going to be enshackled by the West. What we need is an optimal figure, something that would enable us to retain the reform afloat and not allow communists to come to power", Yeltsin added.

History is being made in Russia at present. Reforms are implemented in most difficult conditions. One social system is being replaced by another. That is why it is hard, that is why communists want a revenge and to throw Russia back to former positions, according to Yeltsin.

"But I am sure that thanks to the world community which is now very actively participating in Russian problems and supporting reform that we shall succeed in implementing it", the president said.

Brian Mulroney said that Canada, together with the United States and other G-7 countries wants that the Russian people know how highly the Western states value political efforts aimed at democracy and freedom.

That is why "we welcome President Yeltsin in Canada with who we want to closely cooperate", Mulroney said.

Statement by Canada's McDougall

LD0304200893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1958 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents]

[Text] Vancouver April 3 TASS—The latest dramatic developments in Moscow made it clear that the Vancouver summit should strengthen cooperation between Russian and American partners and give the necessary impetus to Western efforts aimed at supporting Russian reforms, according to Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall.

In a statement on Saturday [3 April] she said that Western aid to Russian economic and political reforms, to which President Boris Yeltsin is loyal, is the most important and urgent task for the world community at present.

She recalled that Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced on Friday that his country will grant Russia additional 200 million dollars to help implement its reforms.

The Russian present and future will be in the focus of the Vancouver summit, according to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He agreed that Canada is resolutely supporting democracy and the "heroic efforts of President Yeltsin".

It is in the interest of Canada and the USA that free markets and democracy took over in Russia, according to Christopher. He wished success to Russian reforms and democracy and said the best way to secure them is to support President Yeltsin.

Yeltsin Meets British Columbia Premier

LD0404181193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1746 GMT 4 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Vancouver April 4 TASS—On Sunday morning Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a conversation with Michael Harcourt, the prime minister of British Columbia, the Canadian province on the Pacific coast. The Russo-American summit is held in Vancouver, the biggest centre of the province.

The conversation with Michael Harcourt is not a mere protocol function. British Columbia is the most prosperous Canadian province which develops markets in the Pacific. Almost the entire Canadian export to the Pacific region passes through ports of British Columbia. The Vancouver harbour handles no less than 60 million tonnes of cargoes every year. Ocean-going dry cargo ships with Canadian wheat for Russia sail from Vancouver.

During the conversation, the Russian president and the prime minister of the province concentrated on the development of business ties.

Answering questions from reporters after the meeting, Yeltsin said: "We discussed contacts, particularly between the province and Russia's Primorye territory".

Asked what he expects from the conversation with President Clinton, Yeltsin said: "We shall continue negotiations today. I expect that we shall discuss ten more items in addition to the 30 items we have already discussed".

One of the reporters asked if the American package of aid to Russia was not too large. "Too much is bad, too little is also bad. It is as large as it should be," Yeltsin said.

Presidents Yeltsin, Clinton Begin Talks

Clinton Presummit Remarks Cited

LD0304191693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1844 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Sidoruk]

[Text] Washington April 3 TASS—"Nowhere is progress towards democracy and free markets more important to us than in Russia and the new independent states of the former Soviet Union", U.S. President Bill Clinton said

on Saturday [3 April] in a radio address before leaving for the Russian-U.S. summit in Vancouver.

"Russia's rebirth is in the economic interest of Amercian taxpayers, workers and businessmen and in the security of all of us", he said.

"If Russia were to revert to its old ways or plunge into chaos, we would need to reassess our plans for defence spendings", he said, adding that "our economic programme at home—more jobs and better incomes for Americans—could be jeopardised if the reforms in Russia fail".

Clinton said he will discuss with President Boris Yeltsin aid to Russia while it is moving to a market economy and called on other countries to render assistance to Russian reforms.

"I want America to act, but America cannot and should not act alone. Just as we mobilised the world on behalf of war in the Gulf, we must now mobilise the world on behalf of peace and reform in Russia", the U.S. President said.

Tripartite Meeting

LD0404014393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2249 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Vladimir Matyash, Yuriy Sizov, and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Vancouver, 4 Apr—Issues of cooperation, above all in the economic sphere, were the focal point at the tripartite meeting of the leaders of Russia, the United States, and Canada, which took place here on Saturday [3 March] afternoon. It was held at the residence of the president of the University of British Columbia, where Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney gave a working lunch in honor of Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton.

Before the start of the meeting, the leaders of the United States and Russia signed the visitors' book.

Taking part in the meeting on the Russian side were Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Dmitriy Ryurikov, aide of the president of Russia for international affairs; participating on the Canadian side were Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Jim Jad, the aide of the head of the Canadian Government for foreign and defense policy issues; participating on the American side were U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Anthony Lake, the presidential aide for national security.

Then B. Yeltsin and B. Clinton set out for the Vancouver museum of anthropology, at which one of the best collections of artifacts of people of the North American continent is housed. At the entrance to the museum, the leaders of the two friendly states were sincerely welcomed by a big group of Canadian children. They handed an "Appeal for peace" to B. Yeltsin and B. Clinton. Exactly at 0130 in the afternoon, the first meeting of the presidents of Russia and the United States started with selected officials present. Taking part in it were D. Ryurikov and Strobe Talbott, special adviser of the U.S. secretary of state on the new independent states.

Economic Cooperation Discussed

LD0404014993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2344 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Vladimir Matyash, Yuriy Sizov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Vancouver April 4 TASS—U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney held joint talks in Vancouver on Saturday [3 Apr] to discuss cooperation, primarily in the economic sphere.

The talks which were held in the residence of the president of the University of British Columbia were also attended by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake.

After visiting the local museum of anthropology, Yeltsin and Clinton held their first meeting which was also attended by Russian Presidential Assistant for International Affairs Dmitriy Ryurikov and U.S. Secretary of State adviser for the CIS states Strobe Talbott.

The meeting focused on U.S. aid to Russia to support its transition to a market economy. Clinton outlined his aid package for Russia which includes measures to bolster the development of small businesses in Russia, speed up privatisation of state enterprises and modernisation of food industry.

Clinton said he and his aides had spent much time working out an effective package, adding that "the kind of things that we propose to do are likely to have lasting and tangible impact, and will minimise... the chance that the money will be squandered."

"What you will see building up over the next few weeks is a very significant effort by the G-7 and perhaps other countries as well to support a long-term process of development in Russia," Clinton said.

"I do not feel any pressure. I am glad that this day has arrived. I welcome the chance that the United States has to support the millions of courageous people in Russia who have stood up for democracy and have had the courage to go through some very difficult times. And I might add, to support the people in the other newly independent states of the former Soviet Union who are going through equally difficult economic times and striving hard for democracy. I welcome that opportunity," Clinton said.

Yeltsin Spokesman on Summit Aims

LD0304161793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Interview with Anatoliy Krasikov, head of the presidential press service, by Viktor Levin in Vancouver on 3 April—recorded; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] [Levin] It is being said that President Clinton has brought with him a whole package of economic proposals, but what is in President Yeltsin's portfolio?

[Krasikov] President Yeltsin's portfolio contains his action program which has been announced and is known in our country. It is no secret to anyone. He went to the elections with his program. At the time he repeatedly openly announced this program in his speeches before the public and at the Congress of People's Deputies. It is a program of democratization, a program of deep economic reforms, a program which is aimed at enabling our people to live better than today in this difficult, difficult period.

[Levin] What would you want specifically,in the first place, from the United States?

[Krasikov] We would want that finally the last barriers be removed in mutually advantageous trade and economic cooperation. We would like the United States to render us aid which is within their power - and they can help a great deal in conversion. Not only Russia but the entire world will gain from that. But money is needed for conversion. One of the possibilities of obtaining money is selling weapons and selling, say, the same missiles which now could be used for peaceful purposes. But it is known that we are coming up against great difficulties on world markets and difficulties which in the first place spring from competing U.S. corporations.

[Levin] Are any shifts possible here? What do you think?

[Krasikov] Perhaps, but, I, understanding the importance of various sources of funds, nevertheless I would not say the arms trade comes first place. The most important thing is to achieve conversion, to achieve an upsurge in production through expanding precisely the production of consumer goods. And here the Americans have the possibility not only to help us by investing funds in the development of our industry but they can also help, say, by lowering customs barriers. It would be very good if, in the end, they helped our joining GATT, the international agreement on tariffs and trade, and helped everyone toward trade becoming increasingly mutually advantageous and even more extensive, so that Russian goods—not only oil, not only raw materials but also finished products—entered the world markets.

Clinton-Yeltsin Talks Begin

LD0404004193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2251 GMT 3 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Valentin Vasilets, Vladimir Matyash, Yuriy Sizov, and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Excerpt] Vancouver, 4 Apr—The first bilateral meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton has begun here in a secluded mansion, residence of the rector of the University of British Columbia. Dmitriy Ryurikov and Strobe Talbott, presidential aides, were the only ones to attend this meeting, to which journalists were not invited. On the eve of the meeting, Western analysts underlined it was important for the reform in Russia to succeed, because it opens up new possibilities for the United States to strengthen security and to have its former adversary as a partner for solving global problems and for major investment in the future of America. [passage omitted]

Roundup of First Day

LD0404060293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0553 GMT 4 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents]

[Text] Vancouver April 4 TASS— "It was a good start on what we hope will be a very successful summit," White House Communications Director George Stephanopoulos said referring to the first day of the talks here between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton.

There was an atmosphere of partnership and cooperation during the talks, he told a briefing for journalists on Saturday night. "President Clinton is very pleased with the atmosphere of the talks and their candor. He likes Yeltsin as a fighter who is not deterred by long odds. Yeltsin is a true democrat," Stephanopoulos said.

Clinton outlined an economic "package" for partnereship and cooperation with Russia, Stephanopoulos said. The two leaders also discussed a wide range of matters concerning bilateral relations.

Yeltsin pointed to "irritants" in the relations, meaning, in particular, the maintenance of trade and COCOM restrictions as well as the recent incident involving a Russian and a U.S. submarine in Barents Sea. President Clinton expressed his regret for the incident.

Earlier the leaders of Russia and the United States were greeted by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who had two brief conversations with them.

In a brief statement after the meeting with the Russian president, the head of the Canadian Government pointed out in particular: "Canada views the reforms, economic and political, initiated by President Yeltsin as

being fundamental to the democratic survival of important institutions and attitudes and the success of the an entire movement in Russia."

"And we have moved over the last number of years to be helpful. We have tried to be helpful again in a bilateral announcement yesterday, and we'll cooeprate with President Clinton and all of our G-7 colleagues to make certain that the Russian people understand the high value that we all place on political action designed to strengthen democracy and freedom," Mulroney said.

The presidents of Russia and the U.S. and the Canadian prime minister had a three-sided meeting which focussed on cooperation among the three countries, primarily in the economic field.

Then the first meeting between the Presidents of the USA and Russia took place. It was held in a secluded mansion on the campus of the University of British Columbia, with the participation of only the two presidents' assistants—Dmitriy Ryurikov and Strobe Talbott.

Before the start of the meeting Yeltsin and Clinton briefly answered journalists' questions.

Question: President Yeltsin, will U.S. aid introduce changes to the political situation in Russia?

Answer: You know, it is always useful to help a friend, especially when friends go through a difficult period. And so we are partners and we are friends.

President Clinton said he did not view the meeting as talks about aid. "These are talks about a long-term partnership. The United States has a great deal to gain from a strong, successful, democratic Russia. It is in our interests, and I am very encouraged by the things that President Yeltsin has stood for and the fight that he is waging".

On Saturday night Bill Clinton, after a brief stroll together with Boris Yeltsin through the Queen Elizabeth Park, gave a dinner in honour of the president of Russia.

Yeltsin Praises Talks

LD0404133793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 4 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The meeting between the Russian Federation and U.S. presidents in Canada is the main topic of the day. As we have found out, Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton are satisfied with the first round of their negotiations, which were held tete-a-tete. In spite of their age difference, the presidents developed a good psychological contact with each other, and as Boris Yeltsin himself pointed out, after three hours of negotiations the relations became so good that he is now on a first name basis with him [pereshel v obrashchenii na ty]. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Solomatin] [passage omitted] After a dinner organized by the Canadian prime minister in honor of the two presidents, a tete-a-tete walk in the woods, and a visit to the museum of anthropology, Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton held their first meeting. Shortly before the meeting, in answer to journalists' questions, they probably voiced the most important ideas brought to Vancouver.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] Helping a friend always does good, especially if a friend is going through a difficult period. We are partners and we are friends.

[Clinton in English] [passage omitted on pledges for long-term partnership with Russia] I think we can only gain from a strong, successful, democratic Russia. It is in our interest. I am very encouraged by the things that President Yeltsin has stood for and the fight he is waging now. [Russian interpreter at news conference renders this passage as follows: "The United States can gain a lot from a stable and strong Russia. That is why we favor continuing and expanding cooperation from which not only Russia but specifically the United States will benefit." (Soedinennye Shaty mogut ochen mnogo poluchit ot stabilnoy, prochnoy Rossii. Poetomu my za to, chtoby prodolzhit sotrudnichestvo, rasshyrit eto. Poetomu eto v polzu ne tolko Rossii, a imenno Soedinennym Shatam."])

[Yeltsin] And the rest of the world too. [end recording]

Russian Side 'Completely Satisfied'

LD0404095793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The Russian side is completely satisfied with the results of the first official meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton, which took place in the Canadian city of Vancouver on 3 April. Correspondents were told this by Anatoliy Krasikov, spokesman for the Russian president.

Judging by brief statements to journalists by Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton, and their spokesmen, the first round of talks mainly discussed aid for Russia and the internal political situation in the Russian Federation and other countries of the former Union, as well as problems holding back the development of Russian-American relations. Boris Yeltsin urged the total lifting of restrictions on trade with Russia, that it be given access to the latest Western technology, and an end to patrols by U.S. submarines along the Russian coast. He assured the American President that Russia is in favor of the independence and territorial integrity of Georgia and that it plans to withdraw its troops from the Baltic countries.

Yeltsin-Clinton Talks Continue 4 Apr

LD0404182293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Video report from Vancouver by correspondent Yuriy Rostov—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The talks between the presidents of the United States and Russia continued in Vancouver today.

[Rostov] The first day of the Russian-American talks brought no sensation, and during the hour-long talks in the first half of the day and in the evening it was mainly economic problems that were discussed. One should not expect dramatic decisions in this sphere at the presidential talks themselves. In order to be realistic, economic projects have to be drawn up by experts prior to a summit meeting.

The briefing by the U.S. Administration was very short on figures and new information, and the Russian side refused to hold a briefing. All in all, the sides are now clearly striving to report everything that is new and interesting later, at the final news conference.

At the talks, Boris Yeltsin stated that Russia regards the discriminatory amendments in American legislation as a factor holding back Russian-American relations. They limit our trade. President Clinton voiced regret over the incident involving an American and a Russian submarine in the Barents Sea. A package of aid to Russia was discussed. Seventy percent of this aid will be sent to Russia by-passing state institutions and, moreover, 75 percent of funds will go not to Moscow and St. Petersburg but to the provinces.

After the meeting, President Clinton said he likes President Yeltsin because he is ready to fight for his convictions.

[Yeltsin] For him, what happens in Russia is as important as the national interests of America. Do you see? This is very interesting. It is rather an original and unusual approach.

[Rostov] The presidents took a short walk round a local park. President Yeltsin had a look at the very beautiful Vancouver bay and also had a short conversation with residents of the city.

[Announcer] President Yeltsin said he is confident that the Vancouver declaration which will be adopted on the results of the talks with Bill Clinton, will get good deeds off to a powerful start. Russian-American cooperation will be successful and it will bear visible fruit in the very near future, and not just in Russia, but also in America, not only for the Russians but also for the Americans, the president of Russia stated.

Participants Noted

LD0404190093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1855 GMT 4 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Vancouver April 4 TASS—The meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President of the United States Bill Clinton just opened in the Hotel Pan Pacific, the residence of the head of the Russian state.

Boris Yeltsin met the American President at the entrance to the hotel. Residents of Vancouver and a large number of local reporters gathered. After shaking hands, the presidents of Russia and the United States approached residents of the city who friendly welcomed the two leaders.

It became known that the meeting will last for about two hours. Participating in the meeting from the Russian side are Boris Fedorov, Andrey Kozyrev, Aleksandr Shokhin, other officials. Participating from the U.S. side are Warren Christopher, Lloyd Bentsen, Thomas McLarty and other representatives of the administration.

Before beginning of the talks, Yeltsin and Clinton held a brief one-on-one conversation near the window of a hall overlooking picturesque Vancouver harbour. Going by the tonality of the dialogue of the two presidents, they were not discussing the sights of this remarkable city and large port on the Canadian Pacific coast, but key problems of the developing Russo-American partnership and world politics.

Beginning the talks, Yeltsin proposed to inform members of both delegations on specific items which the two leaders have already decided or almost decided.

Yeltsin Cited on Western Aid

LD0404092793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In the very near future the United States will provide Russia with $1.6 billion dollars to facilitate reform. The RIA correspondent in Vancouver was given this information in an exclusive interview by President Boris Yeltsin, who said that in the future American assistance will be carried out in stages.

Boris Yeltsin also said that he considers it possible that Russian-American partnership will grow into relations between allies.

The Russian president confirmed that the G-7 countries will, at a ministerial meeting in Tokyo on 14-15 April, consider joint additional measures to help Russia. According to him the leaders of these countries are still concerned about the referendum in Russia which is scheduled to be held on 25 April and are in their own way preparing for this event.

Radio Outlines U.S. Package

LD0404194393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Our special correspondent Vitaliy Buzuyev in Vancouver has reported details of the aid package which Bill Clinton's administration intends to offer Russia.

[Buzuyev] The total aid package for Russia is worth $1.6 billion. It includes humanitarian aid, development of the private sector, and the development of the U.S. Peace Corps. Incidentally, Clinton suggested that the summer

of 1993 should be called the summer of democracy. Twenty-five million dollars have been specially earmarked for intensive contacts between people. About 3,000 people from Russia will travel to the United States on exchange in 1993. Among other initiatives there is a proposal for providing servicemen with accommodation. Four hundred and fifty apartment blocks will be built for them in 12-16 months. By decision of the U.S. side the buildings will be put up in areas where the local authorities have pro-market economy sentiments.

The U.S. Administration intends to open four U.S. business centers in Russia this year to assist American and Russian companies in the Russian market.

At a higher level a Russo-U.S. committee will be set up to develop business. Its co-chairman will be, by all acounts, Vice Premier Shokhin. The aim of the committee is to ease the passage of American investment projects.

The U.S. side intends to help Russia to join GATT as soon as possible. As everyone knows, so far Russia only has observer status there.

U.S. Announces Aid Package

LD0404212093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2111 GMT 4 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents]

[Text] Vancouver April 4 TASS—The Clinton administration on Sunday announced a 1.6 billion dollar aid package to Russia for 1993. The plan includes 690 million dollars in direct grants, 700 million dollars in grain and other food credits and 230 million dollars in other aid.

The package, specifically, envisages the granting of humanitarian food and medical aid to Russia in the amount of 224 million dollars. The package envisages the private support, including 50 million dollars from the Russian-American Enterprise Fund and four million dollars from the Eurasia Foundation.

The U.S. side intends to send to Russia more than 300 volunteer farmers who will share their experience in farming and marketing. The U.S. aid programme also means to help restore democratic institutions in Russia. 48 million dollars is allocated for the purpose. The package also includes a six million dollar programme to help build housing units to resettle demobilised Russian troops. 450 houses will the built in the next 12-16 months. 38 million dollars are allocated to help develop the energy sector of Russia and to reduce pollution of pipeline systems.

The White House programme adopted on the initiative of President Bill Clinton having a two-day summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Vancouver envisages appointing Vice-President of the United States Albert Gore as co-chairman of a U.S.-Russian Commission on Technological Cooperation (Energy and Space). Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will co-chair the commission from the Russian side. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown will co-chair a business development committee. Russian Deputy Premier Aleksandr Shokhin will be co-chairman from Russia.

Economic assistance to Russia in the reforms is envisaged also along the lines of the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. The Export-Import Bank immediately allocates 82 million dollars in export-import credit to Chicago-based Caterpillar Inc. cooperating with Russia. There is a 150 million dollar guarantee from the overseas private investment corporation for an oil project by Conoco Inc. The White House has also recommended to the Export-Import Bank to push through by April 14, 1993, a two billion dollar export-import oil and gas deal.

The programmes of Senators Lugar and Nunn envisages considerable appropriations for safe dismantling of Russia's nuclear weapons, altogether 215 million dollars. Out of this some, 130 million dollars is allocated for dismantling nuclear warheads and 45 million dollars for warhead storage facilities.

Political observers believe a large-scale programme of partnership and economic assistance to Russia announced by the White House is the first specific result of the Vancouver summit of Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton.

'Text' of Vancouver Declaration

LD0504041093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0259 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 5 ITAR-TASS—Follows the full text of the document the presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States issued at the end of their two-day summit in Vancouver.

Having met in Vancouver, Canada on April 3-4, President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and President Bill Clinton of the United States of America declared their firm commitment to the two countries' dynamic and effective U.S.-Russian partnership that strengthens international stability. The two presidents approved a comprehensive strategy of cooperation to promote democracy, security and peace. President Yeltsin stressed his firm commitment to fostering democratisation, the rule of law and a market economy. As the United States moves to reinvigorate its own economy, President Clinton assured President Yeltsin of active American support for the Russian people as they pursue their own chosen course of political and economic reform.

The presidents agreed on a new package of bilateral economic programs and measures to address Russia's immediate human needs and contribute to the building of necessary structures for successful transition to a market economy. They recognised the critical importance of creating favourable external conditions in which the Russian economy can realise its maximum potential.

In this connection, the presidents expressed their determination to promote access to each other's markets, cooperation in defence conversion, removal of impediments to trade and investment, and resumption of U.S. food exports to Russia on a stable long-term basis.

President Yeltsin informed President Clinton about the Russian program of economic reforms. In particular, President Yeltsin stressed such key questions of the Russian reform as the necessity of combatting inflation and achieving financial stabilization by improvement of the banking system. He also emphasized the importance of privatization, encouragement of entrepreneurship, structural policy, and social support. In this context, the president discussed the role of the international community in supporting specific elements of the reform program.

The presidents agreed that Russia's harmonious integration into the community of democratic nations and the world economy is essential. They therefore called for accelerated G-7 development of substantial and effective new economic initiatives to support political and economic reform in Russia. In this connection the presidents welcomed the extraordinary meeting of the foreign and finance ministers of the G-7 countries and the Russian Federation scheduled for April 14-15 in Tokyo. Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin also expressed their satisfaction with the successful conclusion of negotiations in Paris on the rescheduling of the international debt of the former USSR. The United States announced its support for Russia's intention to become a full member of GATT and to begin, in the near future, official talks on the conditions of Russia's accession to GATT.

The presidents agreed to give fresh impetus to the development of the U.S.-Russian relationship in all its dimensions. To coordinate and direct this effort and to activate a comprehensive and intensive dialogue, they agreed on measures to improve the mechanism for mutual consultations. In particular, working groups will be set up involving high-level officials of both governments with broad authority in the areas of economic and scientific and technological cooperation. The presidents agreed to establish a United States- Russian commission on technological cooperation in the fields of energy and space. They intend to designate Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and Vice President Gore to head the commission.

The leaders of the United States and Russia attached great importance to the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. They reaffirmed their determination to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), make it universal and give it an unlimited duration. The presidents stressed their expectation that all countries of the former USSR which are not already NPT members will promptly confirm their adherence to the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states. They urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply fully with its iaea safeguards obligations, which remain in force, and to retract its announcement of withdrawal from the NPT.

The presidents agreed that efforts of Russia and the United States will be directed toward the entry into force of the Start I Treaty and the ratification of the Start II Treaty as soon as possible. They affirmed that Russia and the United States intend to cooperate, on the basis of their mutual interest, in environmentally safe elimination of nuclear forces pursuant to relevant arms control agreements, in construction of of a storage facility for nuclear materials and in the controlling, accounting, and physical protection of nuclear materials. The United States reiterated its readiness to provide assistance to Russia for these purposes. The presidents called for prompt conclusion, on mutually acceptable terms, of the negotiations on an agreement on the conversion and sale for peaceful purposes of nuclear materials removed from nuclear weapons.

The presidents underscored their determination to broaden interaction and consultations between Russia and the United States in the areas of defence and security. They instructed their ministers of defence to explore further possibilities in that direction.

The presidents noted the progress achieved at the recent United States-Russian talks on chemical weapons in Geneva. They welcomed the progress made in preparing the protocols necessary to submit the "agreement on destruction and non-production of chemical weapons" of June 1, 1990 for approval by the legislative bodies of the Russian Federation and the United States. They also welcomed progress achieved in developing agreement on the preparation and implementation of the second phase of the Wyoming Memorandum of Understanding of September 23, 1989 regarding a bilateral verification experiment and data exchange related to prohibition of chemical weapons.

The presidents agreed that it is necessary to achieve the earliest possible resolution of questions about cooperation in non- proliferation of missiles and missile technology in all its aspects, in accordance with the principles of existing international agreements. They also decided to work together to remove obstacles impeding Russia's access to the global market in high technology and related services. The presidents agreed that negotiations on a multilateral nuclear test ban should commence at an early date, and that their governments would consult with each other accordingly.

Mindful of their countries' responsibilities as permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the presidents affirmed that U.S.-Russian cooperation is essential to the peaceful resolution of international conflicts and the promotion of democratic values, the protection of human rights, and the solution of global problems, such as environmental pollution, terrorism, and narcotics trafficking. The United States and Russia stressed their

determination to improve the effectiveness of peacemaking and peacekeeping capabilities of the United Nations, the CSCE, and other appropriate regional organizations.

Recognizing that the problem of mistreatment of minorities and ethnic communities is increasingly a source of international instability, the presidents stressed the critical importance of full protection for individual human rights, including those of ethnic Russian and all other minorities on the territory of the former Soviet Union. They affirmed their commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in that region on the basis of respect for the independence, territorial integrity, and security of all member states of the UN and the CSCE.

The presidents announced their intention to expand and improve joint work in the area of environmental protection. They agreed to coordinate on joint ecological measures to be taken and research to be done, and on support for financing agreed programs. The presidents agreed that the level of mutual openness achieved makes it possible to proceed with new forms of cooperation in science and technology, including programs in the field of outer space. The two countries will further develop bilateral cooperation in fisheries in the bering sea, the north Pacific, and the Sea of Okhotsk for the purpose of preservation and reproduction of living marine resources and of monitoring the ecosystem in the northern Pacific. The presidents further agreed to expand significantly their contacts, exchanges, and cooperation in the areas of culture, education, the humanities, and the mass media.

The joint efforts of both countries have succeeded in establishing a new character for Russian-American relations. The president reaffirmed the principles and provisions of the Camp David declaration of February 1, 1992 and the Charter of U.S.-Russian Partnership and Friendship of June 17, 1992 as a basis for relations between the two countries.

Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin expressed their deep appreciation to Prime Minister Mulroney and the people of Canada for hosting their meeting in Vancouver. With a view to accelerating the development of U.S-Russian partnership, the presidents agreed to meet regularly at the summit level. President Yeltsin invited President Clinton to visit Russia. President Clinton accepted the invitation with appreciation.

TV Analyzes Meaning of Summit

LD0404224693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2022 GMT 4 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] In Vancouver, the Russian and U.S. presidents are about to give a news conference on the results of the visit. However, journalists are already analyzing the documents signed in Vancouver, attempting to forecast future events, and naturally paying attention to details which probably seem insignificant to politicians.

[Commentator Aleksandr Zarayelyan] The essence of everything said in Vancouver over the past two days, of all the speeches and toasts in honor of each other probably boils down to the following: Let's move from words to deeds. Bill Clinton, who informed his Russian colleague on a U.S. economic aid package to our country, pointed out several times that American investments in Russia should be done to last for centuries to come, since this opens up new opportunities for the United States to strengthen its security and acquire a new partner—the former rival.

It is a well-known fact that Americans are not philanthropists. They only invest their money when it makes sense to do so. Well, the American egoism suits Russians very well in this case. The support for small- and medium-size business in Russia, the rescuing of our fuel and energy complex, using U.S. technologies, bank investments and as a consequence, the stabilization of the ruble—this is the essence of an international aid program for Russia. [passage omitted]

When one analyzes all that has happened in the past few days, while listening to the sweet words of foreign promises and at the same time remaining in the country which is in the depths of hyperinflation—according to the state, there is a monthly fall of over 30 percent in demand for the national currency—one comes to understand that it is necessary to stabilize the situation in the next few months. Russians take a long time getting started, but then go like the wind—it seems that the present head of the White House has learned very well this saying, which presents potential danger to the entire world. It seems to me that he is using aid to Russia as a way to gain some more political points, as if saying: Look here, Bush just talked, but I am getting things done.

So, the time has come to move from words to deeds—such is the leitmotiv of the Vancouver meeting. Let's wait and see if deeds follow words.

Yeltsin, Clinton Hold News Conference

LD0504063193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Once again, we are starting the bulletin with a report from the Vancouver news conference, the final news conference given by the presidents of Russia and the United States. The journalists were interested to learn from President Yeltsin how one might forecast the situation at the upcoming referendum in connection with the Canadian agreements. U.S. President Bill Clinton was asked about his personal impressions of Boris Yeltsin. Here are the replies of both presidents.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] With regard to the referendum, that is our internal question. Whether it has an indirect effect (?or does not) have an effect is another matter. But

it is for us to resolve the issue of the referendum. It is for us to work with the population. It is for us to convince the Russians that if they do not give a vote of confidence on 25 April, that will be a big blow not only to Russia, but also to the United States, and the world as a whole. That will mean the loss of democracy, the loss of freedom. That will mean slipping back many decades. It will mean the return of the communist yoke. I am hopeful and believe in the Russian people, I believe that on 25 April they will make their choice. Today, precisely today, there is no alternative for Yeltsin. Tomorrow there will be, but today there is not. [end recording]

[Begin Clinton recording, in English with superimposed Russian translation] As far as President Yeltsin and our meeting are concerned, he is the person I imagined him to be, a person of humble beginnings, who does not forget his origins. Second, his wisdom consists in the fact that he has confidence in the Russian people. Courage and democracy boil down to trusting the people. Boris Yeltsin has placed all his hopes in the Government of Russia, in the hands of the Russian people. [end recording]

View 'Partnership'

LD0504082893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] In Vancouver, the Russian-American summit meeting has ended. I shall now play you yet another excerpt from the final press conference held by the U.S. and Russian Presidents. Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton were asked about the nature of partnership relations between the two countries and about the priority spheres in cooperation.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] I would like to say that we discussed approximately 50 issues, and practically all those issues are issues of partnership. We would not have resolved a single issue if we were not partners, if we regarded each other as rivals or potential opponents. No, we are partners, and in the future allies. We are building relations in such a way and this is how our talks went, and that is how we resolved all the practical questions. Not a single one was lost sight of. They were either resolved immediately or instructions were given to the relevant bodies to resolve them in the immediate future.

[Clinton with superimposed Russian translation] I would also like to answer that question. Those spheres in which, in the opinion of the United States, there are possibilities are power engineering, space, the environment, and nuclear security. These are some of the spheres in which we could cooperate in such a way that it would be useful for Russia, from an economic point of view in the short term, but would also be beneficial to the United States. But besides all that, we discussed but did not decide on a whole range of possible measures that would be possible to undertake in order to get things moving.

The second thing that I would like to say in reply to the President Yeltsin's comments, is that we discussed a whole range of issues. One can say with every justification that it was a larger number of issues than had been proposed. An accord was not reached on all of them. We agreed on how to tackle these issues. [end recording]

Yeltsin Says Cooperation 'Vital'

LD0504074793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0634 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gordiyenko]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—The Vancouver summit signalled a transfer from general statements about support to Russia to concrete mutual pragmatic projects, Russian President Boris Yelstin said at a press conference in Vancouver which was broadcast by all major tv companies of the world.

The basis for a new democratic partnership between Russia and the United States was created, according to the Russian president.

"We understand that everything is interlinked in the world, that cooperation is not a concession, but a vital necessity and a contribution into the future", Yeltsin said, adding that this was the first economic Russian-US summit.

Previous summits were devoted mostly to dismantling old structures of confrontation. "In Vancouver we dealt with the construction of the new, first of all of the basis—economy. This was the first economic meeting of the leaders of the two states in history", he said.

The Russian president believes that "major important decisions were adopted in the interests of Russians, Americans and the whole world". It was agreed to change the approach to Russian export of uranium and weapons, commercial launches of foreign satellites. The possible cancellation of the Jackson-Vanik amendment introducing disriminatory limitations in trade with Russia was also discussed.

"Mutual interest was displayed in American investments, in the Russian fuel and energy complex, in space cooperation", Yeltsin said.

"Our meeting, the economic package (of aid) of Bill Clinton, as I shall be calling it, broke the thesis that America does not want to see Russia strong, flourishing and with a developed market economy, as our opposition claims. America will support Russian entreprenurs, mostly medium and small-scale farmers, the young, will cooperate in constructing housing for the military and in other spheres. All this is support to Russian reforms", Yeltsin said recalling that the United States has earmarked 1.6 billion dollars for the purpose.

The two presidents have discussed also future large-scale measures which the United States and other industrialised nations will take to support Russian reform, according to the Russian president.

Yeltsin on Baltic Withdrawal

LD0504083393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0734 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Vancouver April 5 TASS—"We are completing the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania as Lithuania does not violate human rights and treats with respect the Russian-speaking population", President Boris Yeltsin said at a press conference on Sunday.

The pull out from Latvia and Estonia will depend on the human rights situation there, according to the president.

"As Latvia and Estonia violate human rights, as according to their legislation the national minorities, mostly Russians, are persecuted, we shall link the withdrawal schedule with the human rights situation there although we have adopted a political decision to pull the troops out of the republics", Yeltsin said.

Agreement on Submarine Incidents

LD0504084793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0741 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Vancouver April 5 TASS—Russia and the United States are set to prevent further incidents with their nuclear submarines, like the collision which occurred in the Berents Sea on March 20.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin told a press conference after his summit meeting with Bill Clinton that they had agreed to work out a document which will avert the possibility of such incidents.

Clinton said he told Yeltsin that he greatly regrets the incident and is set to change the U.S. policy and discuss the issue with the Russian president again.

Clinton Pledges Immediate Support

LD0504092193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0852 GMT 5 Apr 93

["Clinton Pledges Immediate Support for Yeltsin's Reforms"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Vancouver April 5 TASS—"In our discussions, President (Boris) Yeltsin and I reached several important agreements on the ways in which the United States and the other major industrialised democracies can best support Russian reforms," U.S. President Bill Clinton said on Sunday.

Speaking at a joint news conference after the summit meeting with Yeltsin, Clinton said these agreements include first of all programmes that can begin immediately.

"I discussed with President Yeltsin the initiatives totalling 1.6 billion U.S. dollars intended to bolster political and economic reforms in Russia. These programmes already are funded. They provide immediate and tangible results for the Russian people. We will invest in the growth of Russia's private sector through two funds to accelerate privatisation and to lend to new small private businesses," Clinton said.

"We will resume grain sales to Russia and extend 700 million dollars in loans for Russia to purchase American grain. We will launch a pilot project to help provide housing and retraining for the Russian military officers as they move into jobs in the civilian economy," the U.S. President stressed.

He added that "we agreed to make a special effort to promote American investment, particularly in Russia's oil and gas sectors. To give impetus to this effort, we will ask Vice President (Albert) Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to chair a new commission on energy and space."

"Second,... the president and I agreed that our partnership requires broader perspectives and broader cooperative initiatives which I will discuss with the Congress when I return home. We expect to do more than we are announcing today in housing and technical assistance, in nuclear safety and cooperation on the environment and in important exchanges," Clinton said.

"Third, this challenge we face today is clearly not one for the United States and Russia alone. I have asked our allies in the G-7 to come forward with their own individual bilateral initiatives. Canada and Britain have already done so and I expect others to follow," Clinton noted.

"President Yeltsin and I also discussed plans for the G-7 nations to act together in support of Russia's reforms. The foreign and finance ministers of the G-7 are meeting in Tokyo on April 14th and 15th" to discuss further measures in this direction, Clinton said.

Further Clinton, Yeltsin Remarks After Summit

Clinton Meets Russian Press

LD0504054593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] [Announcer] Live from Vancouver, here is our special corresondent Viktor Levin on the visit to Canada by President Yeltsin.

[Levin] As we have already reported, the Russo-American summit has ended. And the way it ended was unexpected, in the best sense of the word. I cannot remember anything like it, and I have covered many

summits. After the final joint news conference, which lasted for more than an hour, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he wanted to have a separate meeting with the Russian media. Why? I think the answer is in what Bill Clinton said during this meeting.

[Begin Clinton recording, in progress, in English] ...the second stage of the problem, which I hope to put together next week. In my view, I have been thrilled by Russian music since I was a serious student of music, more than 30 years ago. [end recording]

[Levin] Bill Clinton said: I have been very interested in Russian music since I began to get seriously involved in music when I was a student. That was 30 years ago. On the whole, when I was a boy, I was always interested in your country, its history and culture. I was also very interested in your ballet and other forms of culture and tried to find out as much as I could about your country. I visited the Soviet Union, when it was still the Soviet Union, and you know the trouble I had when I was being criticized for that during the election campaign. My first visit was during the first week of 1970, and after that I did not go to Moscow until 1991, three days before Mr. Yeltsin was elected president. But during all that time, when I was not in your country, I was closely following all events in Russia and wanting our countries to become reliable partners. I have also had a very deep affection for Russia, President Clinton said. Everything connected with Russia makes a great impression on me, and I have always hoped that if I ever get the chance I will be able to improve the relations between our countries and in doing so achieve my goal of making Russia and the United States close partners, Bill Clinton said.

We were also able to talk with the U.S. President about the outcome of the summit. He said that he had listened with understanding to Yeltsin's comments that the United States to this day is adopting a trade policy that discriminates against Russia. Bill Clinton told us that he had ordered a full list of the restrictions and intended to discuss them with congress in the near future. Speaking specifically about the Jackson-Vanik law, which Yeltsin also mentioned, Clinton said that since there are no exit restrictions on citizens in Russia, then this law is likely to be repealed in the near future. Understanding was also reached on the delicate matter of the military. The pretext for the discussion on this subject was the recent collision between a Russian submarine and an American one in the Bering Sea.

During the news conference, Yeltsin said that Defense Minister Grachev would visit the United States in late May and early June and will hold talks with the U.S. military on all issues, including submarine routes. Meanwhile, the visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton to Russia lies ahead of us. The invitation has already been given to him.

[Announcer] Thank you. I will just add that on his way from Vancouver to Moscow today, Russia's President Yeltsin intends to stop over in Bratsk.

Yeltsin Says Meeting Economic Summit

LD0504064393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0610 GMT 5 Apr 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Vancouver April 5 TASS—The Russian-US summit in Vancouver was the first economic meeting of the presidents of the two countries, according to Boris Yeltsin.

Previous summits were devoted mostly to dismantling old structures of confrontation. "In Vancouver we dealt with the construction of the new, of economy first of all. This was the first economic meeting of the leaders of the two states in history", he said after the summit.

Yeltsin said it was agreed to change the approach to Russian export of uranium and weapons, commercial launches of foreign satellites. The possible cancellation of the Jackson-Vanik amendment introducing discriminatory limitations in trade with Russia was also discussed.

"Mutual interest was displayed in American investments, in the Russian fuel and energy complex, in space cooperation", Yeltsin said.

He called US President Bill Clinton "a serious partner with who it is possible to solve major tasks".

Clinton, in his turn, said it is the duty of all world democracies to support Russian reform. He added that a new and flourishing Russia will bring additional billions into the world economy which will mean new jobs and investments.

By assisting Russia the United States is investing not only in the Russian future, but in its own future as well, according to Clinton who said that important agreements concerning US and Western aid to Russia were reached during the summit.

The United States has allocated 1.6 billion dollars for the purpose.

Clinton reiterated his support to democracy and free market reforms in Russia and personally to President Yeltsin.

Yeltsin Departs Vancouver, Seen Off by McDougall

LD0504032793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 4 April, after completing his official visit, Russian President Boris Yeltsin departed for his homeland. The Vancouver declaration was adopted on the results of the meeting with U.S. President Clinton. It states the adherence by the presidents of both countries to a dynamic and strong Russian-American partnership, which is, they believe, an important factor in strengthening international stability. Yeltsin and

Clinton agreed on an all-embracing cooperation strategy for the purpose of promoting democracy, security, and peace.

At Vancouver airport, the Russian president was seen off by Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall and other officials.

According to a report from ITAR-TASS, on the way from Vancouver to Moscow Boris Yeltsin is planning a stopover in Bratsk.

Comments During Magadan Stopover

OW0504110293 Magadan Radio Magadan in Russian 0700 GMT 5 Apr 93

[From the "Oblast News" program]

[Text] Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, has made a stop at the Magadan airport on his way from Vancouver to Bratsk. While answering reporters' questions right in front of the gangway, Boris Nikolayevich remarked that the talks with President Clinton were successful, that the United States of America would extend gradual economic aid, and that the $1.6 billion reported by the press was only the first stage. Boris Nikolayevich said: It is very important that a good psychological contact has been established between myself and President Clinton.

Arrives in Bratsk

LD0504095293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0948 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodii]

[Text] Irkutsk April 5 TASS—President of Russia Boris Yeltsin stopped over in Bratsk on his way back to Moscow after attending the Vancouver summit today.

This city with a population of 300,000 is situated on the banks of the Angara river, about five thousand kilometres from the Russian capital and 600 kilometres from the regional centre of Irkutsk.

The Russian president is expected to visit the Bratsk aluminium plant and hold meetings with its workers and city residents during his stay there.

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Discusses Summit

Views Referendum's Significance

LD0404202493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Report from Vancouver by correspondent K. Belov, including recording of comments to journalists by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Belov] At this moment the last bilateral meeting of the Russian and U.S. presidents is in progress in the Pan Pacific Hotel. Its topics include international matters and issues relating to security. The presidents are thought to be having an in-depth discussion of the situation in Yugoslavia, which Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev described the day before as very serious indeed.

Commenting on the new stage in Russian-U.S. relations being opened by the Vancouver meeting, Andrey Kozyrev said:

[Kozyrev] If we vote for the president and for continuing reforms on 25 April, then we are going to have a reliable partner and, I would even say, an ally in the person of the United States, and also of the whole democratic and developed world. In turn, provided the same condition is fulfilled, they will have a state, a great country which will contribute to their political stability and will be an economic partner which they would be interested in having.

[Belov] At a briefing held by the U.S. side on Sunday morning, it was announced that the United States is granting Russia a credit of $1.6 billion this year. Of this money, $690 million are being granted as non-repayable aid and $700 million in food supplies.

Says U.S. 'Reliable Ally'

LD0504091493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Pakhomov; "Summit Showed Russians Have Reliable Allies—Kozyrev"—TASS headline]

[Text] New York April 5 TASS—"The importance of the Vancouver summit is that two major countries, still possessing considerable nuclear arsenals and exercising a tremendous and unique influence on different parts of the world, continue to cooperate, while leaders of these countries meet and come to know each other better and elaborate a strategy of cooperation in resolving problems both at home and in the world," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in an interview with the ABC television network on Sunday.

The summit between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton is of a special significance because "it is important for the Russians to see that they are not all by themselves with their problems in the world, but that they have a reliable ally, such as the United States and other democratic countries," Kozyrev said.

Assessing the political situation in the country, Kozyrev said that "at issue is whether Yeltsin's course aimed at deep economic reforms will be able to make our country a favourable place for investments and development of entrepreneurship, primarily by Russian people themselves, and a favourable place for investments from abroad, including from the United States."

"In the former Soviet Union any entrepreneurial activity or private property were not simply unknown, but

banned as a deadly sin... A revolution is underway now, and therefore this course is challenged by conservatives," Kozyrev said.

Asked about the referendum scheduled on April 25, Kozyrev said that "Yeltsin does not need any referendum. I mean that he is a lawfully elected Russian leader performing his presidential duties for the second year. Nevertheless, he intends to hold the voting to confirm the mandate given to him and put things in order at home," Kozyrev noted.

"It's important that the first question put on ballot papers is a question of confidence to Yeltsin, and I am sure that he will be given a vote of confidence once again, and it will be a crucial factor," he pointed out.

When asked about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and whether Russia will use its right of a veto when voting in the U.N. Security Council on lifting the ban on arms supplies to Bosnia, Kozyrev said that, in his opinion, there were better ways than using veto or the threat of a veto. "We are discussing this problem in Vancouver and I permanently keep in touch with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher," Kozyrev said.

Comments on Parliament Actions

LD0504115493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1127 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Borovkov]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski April 5 TASS—"Thanks God, nothing that has been signed and agreed upon in Vancouver needs ratification. The issues in question concern executive authorities of both sides", Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told reporters on Monday, hinting that Vancouver agreements could have been blocked in the Russian parliament because of the conflict between the president and legislators.

But Kozyrev fears that Russian-US relations can be spoiled in case the Russian parliament fails to ratify the START-2 treaty which will affect agreements reached in Vancouver by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton.

"I hope the Supreme Soviet will not put a block on the Russian road towards world economic community", he said in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski where he made a stop-over on his way from Vancouver to Moscow.

"If the treaty is not ratified, mutual fear and suspicion will emerge again", he said, adding that in this case Russians will not get new jobs or scholarships, but a new arms race.

The Vancouver summit was the first Russian-US meeting in 60 years which focused on economic problems, rather than on war and peace. "This was the first major talk with Americans on economic issues. Its second characteristic feature is the transfer from words to deeds" Kozyrev said.

The stage of establishing partnership relations has been passed, now it is time to implement them. "Thus, the general agreement on partnership is being transferred into a language of conrete projects in a number of directions", the foreign minister said.

Foreign Ministry Official on Possibility of New Summit

LD0504091593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] It is not to be excluded that another summit meeting will be held this year. This was stated by Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, head of department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent he reported that the heads of the foreign political departments of Russia and the United States had agreed that these meetings should acquire a more regular nature.

Canada's Mulroney 'Astonished' by Clinton-Yeltsin Rapport

LD0504083493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0646 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Pakhomov]

[Text] New York April 5 TASS—Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said he was astonished how quickly presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton established a contact between them. They were frank and interested in each other. Clinton was very attentively listening to what his counterpart was saying, according to Mulroney who spoke in a CNN interview after the Russian-U.S. summit in Vancouver.

Mulroney added that he and the U.S. President were greatly impressed by the fact that Yeltsin clearly understands why he is undertaking certain steps and what he expects from them, as well as what he is going to do after the April 25 referendum in Russia.

The Canadian prime minister said he is more and more supporting the idea expressed by former U.S. president Richard Nixon that the main role in Russian reforms belongs to Yeltsin.

In the current Russian situation there will hardly be another force capable of preserving reforms, he added.

Mulroney said Western aid to Russia is a signal of support to democratic reforms which Yeltsin is trying to implement. However, neither the United States, nor Canada or any other state have enough money to save Russia. Only Russians themselves have to do that, he stressed.

PRAVDA Sees Vancouver Summit as 'Stillborn'

PM0204175593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 1

[Viktor Linnik "Leader" article: "The Stillborn Child of Diplomacy"]

[Text] On the opening day of the Yeltsin-Clinton meeting, it is with regret that I have to state the obvious: For all the fanfare and propaganda drum rolls this diplomatic child is stillborn. Vancouver will not give birth to anything which could significantly influence Yeltsin's political fate, even less something which could perceptibly promote the market reforms in Russia.

What is the main reason for this? The White House, despite the change of administration, still has only a very approximate notion of what is happening in our country or has consciously chosen to take a deliberately false view of Russian affairs. And if the diagnosis is inaccurate it is impossible to pick the right medicines or the correct methods of treatment.

Where does the United States get its information about what is happening in Russia today? There has been no U.S. ambassador in Moscow for about five months. A readiness to take seriously the assessments of "Secretary of State for Russian Affairs" Kozyrev in the course of diplomatic contacts cannot provoke anything but smiles. Analyzing the situation using our "free" electronic mass media is tantamount to trying to determine the length of the canals of Mars using binoculars. The United States has no official contacts with the many-headed Russian opposition. Washington has chosen as its informants the representatives of "Democratic Russia," who today reflect the opinion of the ABSOLUTE MINORITY OF THE RUSSIAN POPULATION.

The discussion on Western aid to Russia on the eve of the Vancouver meeting is being conducted in the same derogatory tone as though they were talking about saving the starving in Somalia. Possibly the United States has good reason for that because Yeltsin's reforms have reduced Russia to the position where we are little different from that long-suffering African country. This time, too, furthermore, matters will not go beyond blather and handouts of no significance to Russia, because the West is well aware that it does not have either sufficient money or desire to really help Russia back on its feet again.

If Clinton really wanted to help Yeltsin he has more than enough opportunities in Vancouver. He could lift the prohibitive tariff barriers on Russian industry in space services and aviation equipment. Finally, he could open for us the traditional Russian arms markets which Yeltsin and Kozyrev voluntarily relinquished. As S. Glazyev, the youngest and seemingly most intelligent of the Russian ministers, rightly noted, no foreign aid and credits could compensate for that loss. Unfortunately there will be nothing of the kind in Vancouver. For the umpteenth year in succession credits for U.S. farmers to supply us with grain will be portrayed as the greatest boon to Russia. And we are expected to shed tears of emotion at this...

How much has been said by Clinton about U.S. aid for the market reforms in Russia! Pardon me, but what reforms? I have just come from Vietnam. In that socialist country which is living in conditions of a U.S. embargo there is far more market economy in evidence than in Yeltsin's capitalist Russia!

Clinton's America is still captivated by one image from CNN's television reportage from Moscow—Yeltsin standing on a tank. But Russia is quite different. And the future in Russia belongs not to Yeltsin and his ilk. The winner is he who looks forward, not back.

'No Special Optimism' Over Outcome

PM0204193593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 3

[Vladislav Drobkov "View from Washington" report: "What Can We Expect from Vancouver?"]

[Text] Speaking in Annapolis Thursday [1 April], U.S. President Clinton declared the importance of the upcoming meeting with B. Yeltsin in Vancouver and reaffirmed the U.S. readiness to assist the reforms in Russia.

"We must do what we can and we must act now," he said. "It is not an act of charity. It is an investment in our own future."

There is another highly symptomatic phrase that the U.S. President used in his speech in Annapolis to which I must draw attention. Our task, he said, is to make the Russians feel that the reforms are good for them and that their sufferings are not the birth pangs of democracy and capitalism but the death throes of dictatorship and communism.

In Clinton's words, "the success of Russia's renewal" is of paramount importance for the United States. It offers an "historic opportunity" to strengthen the security of the United States, creates the likelihood of the transformation of the former rival in international policy into a partner in the solution of global problems, enables the United States to invest billions of dollars in its own future which would otherwise be spent on defense, and gives the hope of mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the future.

At the same time the President did not announce any specific projects or programs of aid for Russia. Nor did he mention the precise scale of the proposed U.S. support for the Russian reforms. Indeed, the solidarity that he expressed with the Russian president was highly restrained in character.

The problems of nuclear disarmament have always been central to Russian-U.S. relations. However at the meeting in Vancouver they can hardly be advanced

significantly. The START II treaty signed by Yeltsin and Bush in extreme haste literally just a few days before Clinton entered office could be a serious basis for a Russian-U.S. summit. But unfortunately they have missed the boat. So far neither Moscow nor Washington has had time to think up any new disarmament "breakthroughs" (our entire foreign policy since Gorbachev consisted and still does consists of "breakthroughs," if you had noticed).

The Ukrainian foreign minister visited Washington recently and was treated with affection here. Once again they reminded him of President Kravchuk's promise to ratify START I. But the Kiev Rada is in no hurry to pander to the United States and hints at the need to increase the promised aid "for the dismantling" of the nuclear warheads. I would recall that Bush promised $175 million for this purpose. People in Kiev, however, are talking about wanting not less than 1 billion.

So the only thing that the presidents can seriously hold a dialogue on in Vancouver is granting new U.S. economic aid to Russia. To be blunt, the presidents will clearly not be speaking as equals. This will not be an easy dialogue for either of them.

Clinton, although he has repeatedly stated in recent days his readiness to increase the help for the Russian reforms, simply cannot allocate significant amounts of money now. It is no coincidence that the head of the White House information service refused to confirm reports in the local press that the new President is ready to allocate to Russia $1 billion in support. His opponents in Congress have been criticizing the Democratic administration so harshly for not cutting government spending enough, they will surely oppose new appropriations for aid to Moscow. They will backed up in this by the opinion of 75 percent of Americans in a recent poll who believe that Russia has already had enough help.

Right now we can see the main areas of the likely U.S. help. Secretary of State Christopher has noted the need to help Russia in the construction of housing, especially for the soldiers and officers returning home. There will also be talk of modernizing the Russian power industry, first and foremost the extracting sectors. That, in Washington's opinion, will enable Russia to increase its hard currency revenue and ease its foreign debt situation.

The administration intends to devote special attention to making it easier for U.S. capital, goods, and services to enter Russia. The system of insurance for U.S. investors against possible losses and the consequences of "political instability in Russia" will be improved.

In Secretary of State Christopher's opinion, the summit will "deal primarily with curbing inflation in Russia, which is now on the verge of hyperinflation." The main thing that must be done now, he believes, is to adopt new trade regulations for Russia which are not dependent on any barriers.

All this gives many local observers reason to view the prospects of the upcoming meeting with no special optimism. "The Western aid plan now being compiled by the Clinton administration will possibly resemble the $24 billion package announced by Bush a year ago. And the results could be similar," AP believes.

ITAR-TASS Highlights Clinton Annapolis Speech

LD0204142293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington April 2 TASS—"Nothing could contribute more to global freedom, to security, to prosperity than the peaceful progression of this rebirth of Russia," U.S. President Bill Clinton said on Thursday in his address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Annapolis, Maryland. He set out the basic approaches of his administration to the development of relations with Russia. It was these principles that the U.S. was guided by when working out an aid package which is to be offered at the forthcoming meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Vancouver, Canada, on April 3-4, Mr Clinton said.

"It is not an act of charity. It is an investment in our own future. It is a wise investment", he said.

"Russia's reforms are important to us because they hold one of the keys to investing more in our own future.

"I believe it is essential that we act prudently, but urgently, to do all that we can to strike a strategic alliance with Russian reform. My goal in Vancouver will be that. And that will be my message to the man who stands as the leader of reform, Russia's democratically elected president, Boris Yeltsin," Mr Clinton pointed out.

"I won't describe today all the specific ideas that I plan to discuss with him, and, of course. I don't know all those that he will discuss with me. But I want to tell you the principles on which our efforts to assist reform will rest.

"First, our investments in Russian reform must be tangible to the Russian people. Support for reform must come from the ground up, and that will only occur if our efforts are broadly dispersed and not focused just on Moscow.

"I plan to talk with President Yeltsin about measures intended to help promote the broad development of small businesses, to accelerate privatisation of state enterprises, to assist local food processing and distribution efforts, and to ease the transition to private markets.

"Our goal must be to ensure that the Russian people soon come to feel that they are the beneficiaries of reform and not its victims. We must help them to recognise that their sufferings today are not the birth pangs of democracy and capitalism, but the death throes of dictatorship and communism.

"Second, our investments in Russian reform must be designed to have lasting impact. Russia's economic vessel is too large and leaky for us to bail it out. That's not what's at issue here. Our challenge is to provide some tools to help the Russians do things that work for themselves.

"A good example is Russia's energy sector. Russia is one of the world's largest oil producers. Yet millions of barrels of the oil Russia pumps each month seep out of the system before even reaching the market...

"And by helping to introduce modern drilling practices and to repair Russia's energy infrastructure, we can help Russia regain a large and lasting source of hard currency.

"Third, our people must do what we can to have people-to-people initiatives, not just government-to-government ones. We've entered a new era in which the best way to achieve many of our goals abroad is not through diplomats or dollars, but through private citizens who can impart the skills and habits that are the lifeblood of democracy and free markets.

"We intend to expand efforts for retired American business executives to work with Russian entrepreneurs to start new businesses.

"We intend to work so that our farmers can teach modern farming practices; so that our labor leaders can share the basics of trade unionism; so that Americans experienced in grassroots activities can impart the techniques that ensure responsive government; so that our armed forces can engage in more exchanges with the Russian military; and so that thousands and thousands of young Russians, who are reform's primary beneficiaries and reform's primary constituency, so that they can come to our country and study our government, our economy and our society, not because it's perfect, but because it's a great example of a democracy at work.

"And fourth, our investments in reform must be part of a partnership among all the newly independent states and the international community. They must be extended in concert with measures from our allies, many of whom have at least at as much stake in the survival of Russian democracy as we do. Working through the international financial institutions, we can do great things together that none of us can do by ourselves. This principle is especially important as we help Russia to stabilize its currency and its markets. Russia's Central Bank prints too many rubles and extends too many credits. The result is inflation that has been nearly 1 per cent a day. Inflation at such levels gravely imperils Russia's emerging markets.

"Fifth, we must emphasize investments in Russia that enhance our own security," Mr Clinton emphasised. "I want to talk with President Yeltsin about steps we can take together to ensure that denuclearization continues in Russia and her neighboring states. We will explare new initiatives to reassure Ukraine so that it embraces the START treaty and to move toward the goal of the Lisbon Protocol agenda, which was intended to ensure that Russia is the only nuclear-armed successor state to the Soviet Union.

"I'll talk with President Yeltsin about new efforts to realize the two-thirds reduction in United States and Soviet strategic nuclear arsenals envisioned under START, and I'll suggest steps both of us can take to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, something that will be a major, major cause of concern for years to come," the U.S. President pointed out.

"Sixth, we must recognize that our policies toward Russia and the other states comprise a long-term strategy that may take years to work completely.

"Our goals must remain equally fixed today; above all, our security and that of our allies, but also democracy, market economies, human rights, and respect for international law.

"Now, as in the past, America's future is tied in important ways to Russia's. During the cold war, it was tied in negative ways. We saw in each other only danger. Now that the walls have come down, we can see hope and opportunity. In the end, our hope for the future of Russian reform is [word indistinct] simply in our faith in the institutions that have secured our own freedom and prosperity, but it is also rooted in the Russian people," Mr Clinton said.

IZVESTIYA Report

PM0204155593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Apr 93 First Edition pp 1,3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Bill Clinton Tells Russians: 'We Are With You'"]

[Text] Washington—You could heat the entire state of Connecticut just by using the gas which "escapes" from the holes in Russia's gas pipelines. U.S. President William Clinton cited that fact to illustrate how rich Russia is in its own natural resources and consequently how helpless and disorganized it is when it comes to using those resources. This was nevertheless an example of where aid and assistance from the United States and other Western countries could be most effective.

"By introducing modern drilling equipment in Russia and helping the Russians repair and rebuild their energy infrastructure," the U.S. President stressed, "we can help it regain an impressive and durable source of hard currency. In the long term efforts in this area will help to more effectively protect the environment and restrain world energy prices."

On the eve of his departure for Vancouver to meet with President Boris Yeltsin, William Clinton addressed the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Annapolis, Maryland, on Thursday. The speech, his first major foreign policy speech since becoming president, was devoted almost entirely to Russia's problems and to ways in which the United States can help resolve those

problems. The development of the Russian economy's energy sector is one of those spheres where America can make the efforts that Clinton and Yeltsin will discuss in detail in Vancouver.

Incidentally, the president specially highlighted the fact that his first foreign visit will be specifically to meet with the Russian leader. "The struggle to build free societies in Russia and in the other newly independent countries is one of the greatest human dramas of the present day. It is the greatest challenge to our generation in the security sphere. It is one of the greatest economic opportunities of our life."

As Clinton noted, "We cannot guarantee the future of the reforms in Russia and in the other countries.... But for our part we must do what we can and we must begin to act right now. It is not an act of charity, it is an investment in our own future."

Leaving the actual details of the aid program "for later," for the Vancouver meeting, William Clinton gave an idea of its principles and main directions. "My task in Vancouver," he said, "will be to establish a strategic alliance with the Russian reforms."

The key principles include the following: The aid must be concrete and visible, it must help the "Russian people to quickly feel that they are deriving benefit from the reforms rather than being the victims of them...and that their suffering is not the birth pangs of democracy and capitalism but the death throes of dictatorship and communism"; the aid must be given at the "people to people" level, not government to government; investments in Russia must be made in such a way as to help strengthen the security of the United States.

At the end of his speech Clinton directly addressed the Russian people—in the expectation that his speech will be relayed or reported in detail. "You," the president said, "are a people who understand patriotic struggle.... Your history is marked with sufferings unknown to us. You heroically resisted the brutal invasions by Napoleon and Hitler. You have a great literature and music which have so enriched our culture.... Your achievements in the sphere of education and science speak of your great faith in progress. And today, when you want to build a great tomorrow for Russia on the foundation of democracy and commerce, I say, and I do so on behalf of all Americans: We are with you."

This is not quite right: The latest poll conducted by CNN and USA TODAY showed that only fewer than 20 percent of Americans favor increasing aid to Russia, while 34 percent favor reducing it.

It is interesting that in his speech Clinton paid his respects to Russian journalism, whose energy and vitality, he said, "give us hope that the great traditions of the quest for truth in Russian culture will be preserved and that Russia's antidemocratic demagogues will not prevail."

The U.S. President also paid tribute to the Russian Armed Forces, "whose discipline, which was shown again in August 1991, gives us the hope" that the transitional period in Russia "can continue to be peaceful."

'Partnership' Sets Tone for Summit

PM0204194393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 2

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: " 'It is Not Charity!..' On the Upcoming Russian-U.S. Summit"]

[Text] The meeting between the Russian and U.S. presidents in Vancouver has not taken place yet, nor has Bill Clinton set out his proposals on the U.S. aid and Western aid in general for the reform processes in the Russian economy and policy, but the publicity and support campaign for the "Clinton plan" has already been mounted. The leaders of the chambers of the U.S. Congress have been firmly stating that the package of economic aid to Russia will have the support of both parties in both houses. Either the legislators have such confidence in their president that they approve all his proposals in advance or else they have had prior notice of the themes of Clinton's conversation with Yeltsin.

The latter is more likely. On 1 April the U.S. President addressed members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Annapolis, Maryland, where he set out his administration's aims and approaches to the problem of economic support for Russia. These principled provisions can be given specific substance, Clinton believes, either at the meeting of foreign and finance ministers of the "G-7" countries in mid-April or, more likely, at the conference of heads of states and governments of that same "G-7" in July.

The president stressed that the program of support for the democratic reforms in Russia must be broad and extensive and not be confined either to Moscow or St. Petersburg and, secondly, it must be long-term in character as one-shot actions will not yield any visible effect.

The U.S. President emphasized another extremely important aspect of the campaign of help for our country. We, he said, will not be able to do the Russians' work for them but we will be able to provide them with the necessary tools for the job. As an example of this he cited technology in the fuel and energy complex and the agrarian sector of the Russian economy. It is practically impossible to carry out activity on such scale at intergovernmental level, which is why the broad masses of entrepreneurs, farmers, trade unionists, politicians, and students from both countries should be enlisted in carrying it out. Our countries must also have the opportunity to expand exchanges of servicemen between their armed forces, Clinton stated.

America's whole activity in supporting Russia at this difficult period for it is not charity, the president noted. It is primarily ensuring our own future and the security of the United States and its people. Partnership with

Russia will help prosperity in America itself, even if only through the trillions of dollars saved on armaments. But that is only part of the real return from the new relations between the world's two largest powers.

Incidentally it was evidently no coincidence that the word "partnership" was used in Bill Clinton's speech. The journalists preparing to cover the summit meeting have been noting that "partnership" is becoming the key word of the Vancouver meeting. This will be the first event of its kind where questions of disarmament and nuclear safety will not be the key topics, they note (although, to all appearances, they will be among the range of problems under discussion). This is viewed as a most important sign of the new mutual relations between the United States and Russia which are also reflected in the general world picture of interstate relations.

UK's Hurd Arrives for Working Visit, Meets Kozyrev

LD0204161393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1428 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in the Russian capital today for a short working visit. Immediately after his arrival, he headed for the Russian Foreign Ministry headquarters, where he will hold talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The ministers will exchange views on the current political situation inside the country and discuss preparations for the upcoming Tokyo meeting of G-7 foreign and finance ministers on aid to Russia. They will also examine the most acute international problems, above all a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

D. Hurd will fly on to Seoul later today.

Agreement on Russian-UK Summit

LD0204185393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Apr

[From the "Novosti" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A decision was also made at the talks between British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to start preparations for a Russian-British summit. According to plans, it is to be held in Moscow, some time this year.

Kozyrev Comments on Visit

LD0204194193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1812 GMT 2 Apr 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 2 April—In spite of the short time available, we had a detailed discussion that showed that Russia and Great Britain have "a basis of common interests and aspirations, and a proximity of views, on practically all the issues discussed, both on bilateral relations as well as on international issues and, first and foremost, on a settlement in Yugoslavia. [no close quotation marks as received] This was revealed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev after the conclusion of the talks with Douglas Hurd, head of the British Foreign Office, who arrived in Moscow today on a short working visit.

Andrey Kozyrev said that the forthcoming Russian-American summit should become a new step along the way to strengthening the relations of friendship and partnership between Russia and the major Western states with dynamic economies. Today, in the United States, he noted, there is growing understanding of the need to draw up a coordinated and long-term strategic line. The latest speeches made by President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher testify to this.

In turn, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd pointed out that "the conversation was frank and direct." He revealed that the government of his country decided to double the aid rendered to Russia for the implementation of the economic transformations from 60 to 120 million pounds sterling. This is our support for the reformist course undertaken by President Yeltsin, he noted. The reforms should continue and the decision taken by Great Britain is practical help for their realization. The practical projects that the money will be used for will, naturally, be decided by the Russian side, he said.

Statement on Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine

LD0504095693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0855 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Apr—Russia "firmly advocates that nuclear weapons temporarily sited on Ukraine's territory should be under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation." This is said in a Russian Federation Government statement distributed today. It expresses concern at Ukraine's stance on nuclear weapons sited on its territory, and puts forward measures to ensure their safety. Russia "is prepared to do its share, in response to its appeals, to make it easier for Ukraine to fulfill its international obligations," the document says. Together with other depositories of the Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty—the United States of America and Great Britain—Russia is prepared to give "security guarantees to Ukraine, which will come into force after it has joined this treaty as a non-nuclear state."

In the interests of eliminating concern over the nuclear weapons in Ukraine "the Russian side proposes that in the shortest of timeframes the warheads should be removed from missiles sited on Ukrainian territory and all nuclear munitions should be taken to Russia to be subsequently destroyed under Ukrainian supervision [kontrol]."

The statement says that in order that the possibility of these nuclear weapons being used is ruled out, in addition to political guarantees "it would be possible to end flight assignments even in the coming months" with regard to all means of their delivery. It is also proposed to constructively resolve the issue of making use of nuclear weapons [boyezaryady]."

The statement says that recently "the situation concerning the nuclear weapons sited on Ukrainian territory has been sharply aggravated." The Ukrainian representatives make statements about these weapons being "the property of Ukraine," which cannot be viewed in any way other than as "a claim by Ukraine to possess nuclear weapons."

The Russian side believes that such a stance taken by the Ukrainian leadership signifies a "direct violation" of the relevant agreements within the framework of the CIS and of the Lisbon protocol on the START-I Treaty. It is also at odds with Ukraine's obligations with regard to the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from its territory in order to dismantle and destroy them before the end of 1994. "To the contrary, the Ukrainian side is making practical steps aimed at taking under its control the nuclear weapons situated on the territory of this country," the statement says.

In connection with this the Russian Government states that the position adopted by Ukraine "is fraught with extremely dangerous consequences." "The effectiveness of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons regime is under threat. The implementation of START-I and START-II treaties, of the actual process of disarmament, is also in doubt." "The time has come to immediately make a careful decision free of any calculations aimed at gaining political or any other dividends. This will benefit both the Ukrainian and the Russian people, as well as the world community," the Russian Government statement says.

Deputy Ministers Speak

LD0504164793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1550 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—The situation that has formed around nuclear weapons which are temporarily deployed on Ukraine's territory has generated increasing concern lately because Ukrainian leaders, contrary to their statement on Ukraine's nuclear-free status, are carrying out practical measures testifying to its desire to possess nuclear weapons, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Boris Gromov said.

He spoke at a press conference today which was held in connection with the Russian Government's statement concerning nuclear weapons deployed on Ukraine's territory.

Mindful of the fact that Ukraine officially stated that it will join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a nuclear-free state shortly, the Russian side came up with the proposal to take under its jurisdiction the nuclear weaponry temporarily deployed on Ukraine's territory. However, Ukraine did not accept this proposal.

"Being aware of the crisis situation regarding nuclear safety that has formed in Ukraine and the unpredictability of possible consequences in the event of accidents involving nuclear weapons, we believe it is nucessary that the next round of talks with Ukraine shall return once again to solving this problem in the hope that the Ukrainian side will continue these talks in the more constructive vein," Gromov said.

Russia attaches immense importance to Ukraine's move to join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a nuclear-free state, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Berdennikov said. This is very important as a conference to review the nuclear non-proliferation treaty should take place in 1995. It will decide the issue of extending this treaty and Russia advocates that it be extended for unlimited duration.

In case a new nuclear state emerges, this may put in peril the entire nuclear non-proliferation regime and serve as a very dangerous precedent for other countries that are on the verge of acquiring the nuclear capability. "In this regard, we are interested in the commitments voluntarily assumed by Ukraine to be fulfilled as soon as possible," Berdennikov emphasised.

Foreign Ministry Statement Views Baltic Withdrawal

LD0204154593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1517 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltics has been complicated by the absence of interstate agreements to regulate the procedure, order, conditions and time of withdrawal, as well as measures of social protection of servicemen and members of their families in accordance with the norms of the international law, says a statement circulated here today by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"The Baltics official circles have been drawing the international public's attention to the situation around the troops withdrawal," says the document. The temporary suspension of the withdrawal till the conclusion of corresponding agreements is envisaged by a Russian president instruction of October 29, 1992, which was conveyed to heads of all CSCE states in personal messages of Boris Yeltsin.

"Riga, Vilnius and Tallinn perfectly understand the troops withdrawal was not fully suspended," says the statement. The Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed the intention of the Russian leadership to withdraw the troops from the Baltics in a short but real period of time remains unchanged.

"In order to do it it is necessary to pull efforts for the soonest coordination of draft agreements, which have long been on negotiations' table and concern vital interests of not only the Russian servicemen, but also military pensioners and civil personnel of military enterprises located on territory of the Baltics," stressed the statement.

Bosnia Urged To Sign Peace Plan Within Week

OW0204131393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Bosnian Serbs have "at best a week" to sign the Vance-Owen plan on a settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Otherwise, they will pit themselves against the entire world community, which will take "adequate measures" against them. A high ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official in charge of relations with former Yugoslav republics stated this in a conversation with an Interfax correspondent on Friday [2 April].

Yastrzhembskiy Cited on UN Resolution on No-Fly Zone

LD0204154393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The resolution on no-fly regime in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted in late March and acceptable for all members of the U.N. Security Council, was prompted by Russian insisted efforts, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told a briefing here today.

The resolution could be one of measures in political settlement process and must not imply expanded interpretation of the power methods, he said. It is important to ensure the best possible control on the part of the U.N. Security Council over the future operation.

"There is need for the no-fly zone, as all the three Bosnian sides, despite the previously-introduced ban, acted counter to the U.N. Security Council's demands," stressed Sergey Yastrzhembsky.

The latest resolution was adopted to put an end to these actions. "Russia supported the resolution, proceeding from its consistent course towards the termination of bloodshed in former Yugoslavia and after the Security Council's agreement to take necessary and commensurate to specific circumstances measures exclusively in the skies of Bosnia and Herzegovina", he said.

The resolution provisions on up to 14 day postponement of the operation beginning to give the warring sides in Bosnia and Herzegovina time to think and reach a stable termination of combat operations, and Bosnian Serbs to accept the settlement proposals of the coordination committee co-chairmen, are extremely important, noted the Russian official.

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Interviewed on Congress Results

LD0204195293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1735 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Viktor Stepanovich, what for you were the results of the Ninth Extraordinary Congress?

[Chernomyrdin] The main results were that nothing happened that ought not to have happened. Because any incorrect decision.... [pauses] Today one can argue with many of the decisions that were adopted, because they were unconstructive. They have not brought anything into our lives, into the lives of our people, and now I am very glad that everything is already behind us. Therefore for me, and not only for me, but for the government today, we have the possibility of working properly. We have a sea of questions, a sea of work.

[Correspondent] At the Congress, you made that appeal to the Congress—let us work. It seemed to me that recently there has been very considerable pressure on you from both sides, both from the Supreme Soviet and from the president. You are now inside the territory disputed between the two opposing branches of authority. Whose side are you on?

[Chernomyrdin] I must say right away that this question has indeed flared up in recent days. People have naturally come up to me, spoken with me, some of them begged with me, tried to convince me. I must say again that the government supported the president primarily so that there would be order in the country, to put an end to the chaos. We need to start to work. We must not be divided. The government is the government; it does perhaps the least rewarding job, all of that lies with the government, and must do so. There is no other body that would do all our work: starting from the organization of work, of trade, of industry; of foreign, economic, and political activities—all these things meet in the government.

Some start to quiz Chernomyrdin, some others try to scare him, some say—I heard this, right out of the blue—that he now bows to some presidential structures or another. Nobody bows to anyone. The government is busy, it works, it has things to do.

[Correspondent] Incidentally, your appearance at the rally created something of a furor. I do not know what the people discussed more—the rally itself or your presence there. Some said that the president forced you to do go, others claimed that you were betraying the Supreme Soviet. And everyone was mulling over the question: why you did not speak?

[Chernomyrdin] First of all, I am not a rallying type. In fact, this is the first rally in my life, by the way. I am always occupied with some work or other, some real business.

[Correspondent] Me, too, to be honest with you.

[Chernomyrdin] So then. As for this rally, what is so special about it? I came out to my people, with my president. Have I done anything special? Turned up at the wrong side of the Russian border, or what?

[Correspondent] Do you have meetings with Ruslan Imranovich?

[Chernomyrdin] Of course I do. We are on the phone to each other often. There are some questions that I cannot resolve without the president—as simple as that. I cannot or have no right or would not resolve them. I am grateful to the president for trusting me.

There are other questions, which I do not resolve without the Supreme Soviet. On certain questions, I take the advice of Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Why should I be accused of anything?

[Correspondent] So, you insist on your neutrality and non-involvement in political battles.

[Chernomyrdin] You know, I would say once again: the word neutrality and its like are unacceptable for me. The government must live according to our laws, according to the Constitution. Some dislike it, many, in fact, dislike it—me too, I must say. Not all of it—but a lot in our Constitution must today be improved, finished, adjusted. Life has already introduced corrections, and we still cannot manage to adjust certain things in the Constitution. But I am the government, I am in charge of the government, I am in charge of keeping everything within the Constitutional framework, within the limits of law, laws—our laws. That is why I act, first and foremost, in line with these laws.

[Correspondent] I would like to continue the Congress line. A decision was made to form a coalition government. How do you assess this decision, and in general, what is it—coalition government—in our life, our reality?

[Chernomyrdin] I think that many people cannot even imagine what a coalition government is all about, especially in Russia and at this moment in time. That is why, in principle, I am categorically against any sort of coalitions. The government is not a club, is not a place for free discussions on various topics. The government is the level that organizes work. What is a coalition today? A coalition implies that there are parties existing in the country, they must represent someone.

[Correspondent] I believe we have more parties per capita than anywhere in the world.

[Chernomyrdin] You have answered your own question, you know. I am saying that I agree to cooperate with

everyone—with the extremists and non-extremists, with those on the left and those on the right, if they are the people who want to do something for their country, or to give us some sort of an advice.

People in the government should be well-educated professionals, above all—this is the kind of government and people seeking a job there that I would like to see, before everything.

I have already taken advice—and we do take the advice of parties, factions, I have met virtually all of them. I suggest—go ahead, give me a name, or come and work yourselves. You know what hurts most—there are letters, phone calls, but those who are needed, and who know they are—they do not come forward. I invite them, they will not come.

[Correspondent] Are they scared? Don't they want to join in?

[Chernomyrdin] No, they don't, of course they don't. You know, with a situation like this, with a Congress every fortnight and all of this would be looming over them, everything stirring up constantly—there may be indeed some justification for these people. However, I would not accept this either.

[Correspondent] Please give me an example: have you spoken to any party leader, have you asked him to give you names, and he has refused?

[Chernomyrdin] I met Baburin recently, for instance, and I asked him—can you name specialists who could work in the government? I had heard him before in a television interview. So then—he has not come up with names yet, he promised he would give it a thought, maybe he will suggest someone.

[Correspondent] Surprisingly, we have lived to see the day when prestigious jobs, coveted by people all their lives, are now not in demand.

[Chernomyrdin] I believe it has not always been the question of prestige, it is not that—maybe it was—for those who have never been close to the government at all.

[Correspondent] Power is for the venturesome.

[Chernomyrdin] This may go well for power, but working in the government is not easy, far from it.

[Correspondent] What comment could you make on the series of dismissals. Will there be any more dismissals in the government? And a question that might possibly be rather unpleasant for you: Was it really necessary to announce the dismissals during the Congress? Couldn't these reshuffles have been made either before or after the Congress?

[Chernomyrdin] That is some question... [pauses] You understand, why should I be always tuning to something? You are asking me a question in such a way that I feel as if I were expected to. All those decrees had been drawn up and signed before anyone knew about the Congress, and before the decision on the Congress was made. It is just another coincidence.

[Correspondent] Viktor Stepanovich, quite recently on the way back from Alma-Ata, you gave me the first expanded interview in your capacity as prime minister.

[Chernomyrdin] I did indeed.

[Correspondent] One hundred days have elapsed. Do you have a program now?

[Chernomyrdin] We used to have so many programs, and to discuss them at such length, and we do not even know their results. Today the question is not in programs—today we need results. When will we learn to talk about results? Results—like bread that we need, goods that we need, clothes, children's goods—that is what we need today. That is exactly what worries me.

Tell me, can you move economic reforms with hungry people? What is this obsession? Feed people first, create things! And who will feed us? Do you think anybody in the world or in Europe can feed our state? And they are now putting pressure on us, they are saying that they are promising things to us and giving us credits. Nobody has given us anything yet!

And incidentally, they are not giving us anything for it. And that humanitarian aid that they tried to organize for us: it is demeaning, but we should not feel humiliated when saying thank you for it, but we really have to. And we, and I myself, feel demeaned as far as this is concerned. Like any other country, we must use credits, we must know how to use them, but first of all, we must do everything ourselves.

We are the sort of country that could feed itself twice over; that is to say, we can feed ourselves. We have everything that makes this possible. Everything really needs to be reconstructed. In principle, the program, or rather not the program, but the primary measures we need to take for 1993 are already in place. Moreover, we prepared them and worked on them.

On 11 February, we held a meeting of the government with the participation of the heads of administration, the heads of regions and the heads of republics. We discussed and adopted measures for the way we want to see things in 1993 and what we can achieve in 1993.

We are now working on these measures. We are defining more precisely certain measures for the first quarter and then we will look at the second quarter and then the third, and in this way we will steadily do our work so that we can see who works in what way, what succeeds, and what does not succeed. Then, at the end of the year, we can simply hold up our hands, sigh and say, we did not manage this or we did not do this properly, this was not properly thought through or here we changed our mind.

We will work as usual in the same way as the whole world works.

[Correspondent] Could you give us a few specific examples of what you are going to do now?

[Chernomyrdin] How can I give you an example? Here we are on the eve of the spring field work beginning. Once more this work has acquired a particular significance. I would really like to hope that the year ahead will be a good one for issues of finance, credits, subsidies, fertilizers, and fuel—lowering the prices of one or more of these items—all of the obstacles in essence have been removed, and we need this mechanism to come into operation as quickly as possible so that its effects reaches the people in the countryside and the localities. This is the work I am engaged in. We will even provide fuel for everyone. The paradox is that there is fuel and yet they do not have fuel.

[Correspondent] We have nicely led up to my next question about which you spoke at the Congress as well. About the fact that our executive discipline and our production discipline in general has been destroyed. You promised to improve it. How?

[Chernomyrdin] We will learn to implement the decrees and government resolutions that are issued. We need to learn how to see all of this through to the end, for we adopt these measures, and in the localities they need to understand that these things need to be implemented. This is discipline.

Today, in many spheres, we have shared out powers and given independence to the regions, to enterprises, collectives, and the leaders of enterprises.

Isn't it paradoxical, for example, that an enterprise that was state-run today turns into a joint-stock company and the production rate drops immediately? What is happening, or what has happened?

Today, many people do not like to hear this, and they all think that Chernomyrdin once more wants things to develop in some way. I am moving and will move toward only one thing. First and foremost, that is toward order.

[Correspondent] Viktor Stepanovich, will the government intervene on prices? You know that everyone is now in a state of shock because of prices rocketing and, generally speaking, many are probably expecting this. But on the other hand, I realize that we have inflation, and it is very difficult to restrain prices at all.

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, of course, how can we fail to talk about inflation when we have started to produce less, prices have risen, and the wages people are receiving have become unbridled. You wanted me to tell you whether or not the government will intervene on prices?

[Correspondent] ...intervene on prices?

[Chernomyrdin] The government will where it is necessary, so that where possible, it will regulate prices. This is what we are doing at present. Once more, we need a mechanism so that there is regulation at the state level. We need to do this and must do this as is done in all civilized, in all civilized...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Yes, I know there are basic products, the prices of which need to be kept down for the sake of social protection. Once more you find yourself caught on the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand, the Supreme Soviet, the government, and the president all adopt measures to support the investments of the population and on a minimum wage. Some 4,500 rubles as the minimum wage for a person is not much money, but for the state, taken as a whole, it is a catastrophe in my view. How will you feel about being stuck in such a tight corner and how will you get out of this?

[Chernomyrdin] I must say that this tight corner puts us all in a situation where, in essence, we have no room for maneuver. Of course, the minimum wage on which a decree was signed and the indexation of savings which has been signed—and, of course, the resolution of the president... [pauses] or rather of the Congress that troubled us somewhat; that is how it is. But we will find a way to resolve this.

What the government adopted and the decree that was signed is all in the budget, and we are relying on the results of the work, the results on the earnings side, so that there will be the money for this. Things will change for the better... [words indistinct as correspondent interrupts]

[Correspondent, interrupting] Viktor Stepanovich, your reputation in the world is one of a hermit as regards journalists. Is this a position of principle?

[Chernomyrdin] Well, how should I put this? Some of you have written that I have been pushed up against the wall and forced to say something. I do not remember an instance in which I was pushed anywhere. The problem is not pushing. The problem is whether or not I like them: Basically I do not like them, if I have to be honest. So I am not a great enthusiast. It seems to me that I have the sort of position in which you should not talk too much but concentrate on doing. That is probably how I would put it.

Well, once again, I support, I tell you that, of course, we need to explain our actions, what we are doing and what we want to do or what we intend to do, and even what did not work, this has to be explained. [sentence as heard]

Chernomyrdin does not have to do that, any member of the government can do that, we have deputy ministers, we have leaders and industries and enterprises and joint-stock companies, there has to be a permanent feature of that sort, an hour on air for the government, so our people can ask us questions and not go by hearsay or, I do not know, now they are writing about it and all from different points of view.

[Correspondent] So you want to go out live regularly?

[Chernomyrdin] I think this is necessary for the government. The government has to have time when it can mix with the population and when people can ask questions. I agree, and it is my duty—should I hide my work or our work?

[Correspondent] The press is now widely discussing the conflict between Boris Fedorov, the deputy prime minister and finance minister, now hyphenated, as I believe it now is, and Viktor Gerashchenko, the chairman of the Central Bank. Whose side are you on? This is a question like that with the president and the Congress. In this case, whose side are you on?

[Chernomyrdin] I would put the question like this: Whose side are they on? How do they see me, and not I them? They are both members of the Presidium and Council of Ministers. And about conflict, nobody today has... [pauses] This word is not suitable for these people. It simply is not suitable today. So I deny it instantly. Certainly the government debates and argues among itself and within itself. This has to be done: we cannot allow mistakes, all the more so at such a high level. Or at least we need to allow fewer mistakes. We have to, but showing our dirty laundry or whatever, that is not on, that is not correct.

[Correspondent] The price of vouchers recently has been consistently low. The chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property keeps saying with an enigmatic expression that he will promulgate something and the price will rise and become higher than the nominal value. Does the government still advocate privatization as it has done previously? Does it still lie within the government's sphere of interest?

[Chernomyrdin] Of course, we are in favor of privatization. Once more, this is not just the issue of Chubays alone and not just a question of someone wanting it. It is policy today. It is a block of the economic reform package and without it, reform cannot progress. There is a question about how we are conducting privatization. Our country is too varied to subordinate everything in our country to a single set of regulations. It is already awkward for me to touch upon this, but as always, you are forced to mention that many people foist the idea upon us that we should carry out something like collectivization, but we are not that sort of country.

Our south is one thing—Stavropol and Krasnodar. In Yakutia and Magadan, the situation is quite different. The next situation is in Central Europe. In the same way, there is a village or rural area, and the villagers have their approach to these matters. Industry in Moscow has quite another one. To privatize a shop, we can all submit tenders, but in a village, who will participate when there are only 20 houses? What tenders can we have there? Who will announce this tender and to whom? It is not Chubays today—incidentally, he is a highly professional person. He knows what he is doing—today there is a law, and I can refer to it once more. If you read the law on privatization, there are some particular things which, whether you like it or not, need to done, or else the law needs to be amended. We will now amend the law, and we will make progress.

When I speak of privatization, I do not mean to say that anybody is trying to wind up this program—no, of course not. We will be implementing it, but to a sensible degree as it must be done—without leaps.

[Correspondent] Aren't you afraid that people think that you are backing down. All the time you say...

[Chernomyrdin, interrupting] I do not think that. It is you who says this on air. Listen, of course, this gets on my nerves. I must tell you frankly that in order to work properly, we need to find a general understanding here at least. With our wealth and resources, we still live badly. Why do we do this? Why do we reduce ourselves to poverty with our own hands? Why? How have our people grown lazy? Lazy before whom? Before us? Before such heads? This is what is upsetting, this is what is demeaning.

All we need to do is work. And I am a convinced supporter, and I think we will work and that there will be results. But not immediately. This is not an enterprise, it is not even a family, it is a whole state without equal in the world. We need calm and measured work, and then we will have results.

Private Enterprise Associations Meet in Moscow 2 Apr

Yeltsin 'Unable To Attend'

LD0204133193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The constituent assembly of the Association of Private and Privatized Enterprises opened in the capital today. Their leaders are joining forces to uphold the interests of industrialists and to secure economic freedom, legality, and a stable finance and tax policy.

[Correspondent A. Dadyko] Over 1,000 managers of Russian enterprises from 80 regions of the country are taking part in the assembly's proceedings. According to the association, reforms have yet to touch off a definitive transformation of the economic situation.

Private enterprises are presently still in the minority and they have been placed in a singularly unfavorable position compared to the prevailing state sector. Imperfections in the finance policy and the law, resistance from officials in the provinces, monopolism—this is a far from complete list of problems that every independent enterprise has to face. At present, there are 54,000 of them in the country.

One can see that the constituent assembly attracted a huge amount of interest from the enormous number of

journalists, both local and foreign, gathered in the hall. Everyone expected to see Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend, but his statement was read out by his head of administration Sergey Filatov.

Many millions of Russians, active supporters of reforms, stand behind you. With these words the president backed the industrialists. He agreed with them on the point that rule of state officials were the principal reason why the country could not become self-sufficient in bread and meat.

In two days of work the assembly plans to adopt a package of documents and resolutions on the progress of privatization, tax policy, and improving legislation.

Yeltsin Sends Message

LD0204133293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Today Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a message to the constituent congress of the Association of Private and Privatized Enterprises. The message says that Russia has only one way: not to return to the past but to move to an efficient market economy which is based on private property. The president pointed out the importance of privatization for the Russian economy. He stressed that the country is not able to provide itself with bread, meat, machinery, and other highly productive technical equipment because bureaucrats are managing the main part of the economy. Boris Yeltsin also noted that there are some obstacles in the way of privatization which are being created by various bodies of power.

Parliament Said Hindering Privatization

LD0204183293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Participants in the founding congress of the Russian Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises have called upon the Russian parliament to stop trying to put obstacles in the way of the privatization process in Russia. They think it is inadmissible that, in discussing the progress and program of privatization, the Supreme Soviet should ignore the viewpoints of enterprise heads who, according to an ITAR-TASS report, have a positive opinion of the work done by Anatoliy Chubays, the chairman of the state committee for the management of state property, and think that privatization is one of the few examples of real reform being implemented in the country.

According to statistics, over 46,000 enterprises were privatized in Russia in the past year.

Enterprises Support Yeltsin, Reforms

OW0304091993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0905 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The participants in the founding congress of the All-Russia Association of Enterprises and Enterprises Undergoing Privatization which opened in Moscow on Friday [2 April] have published a statement saying that they "on the whole support the strategic policy of economic and political reforms pursued by the president and government, and welcome the efforts to implement wide-scale privatization and a policy of financial stabilization."

The statement points out, however, that the economic reforms have so far failed to improve the people's welfare, while the crisis is being aggravated by political mistakes and resistance to the reforms on the part of some legislative and executive bodies, both central and local ones.

The congress describes the April 25 referendum as a civilized way to end the current political crisis, calls on the citizens of Russia to vote for the president, and appeals to association members to help organize the referendum and make financial contributions to it.

The congress also demands that a new bicameral parliament be elected this year, and that candidates be nominated by political blocs.

It urges the citizens of Russia to use the referendum and the election of a "new professional and responsible" parliament as a chance to remain on a road leading to democracy and progress.

Yeltsin-Backed Association Created

MK0304103093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 2

[Yelena Kotelnikova, Yekaterina Deynego report: "Congress of Privatized Enterprises. President Supports Association of Private Enterprises"]

[Text] On 2 April the constituent congress of a new all-Russian organization of entrepreneurs—the Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises—opened in Moscow. Observers point to the intense interest displayed by radical reformers in the association that has been created. In particular, Petr Filippov, a leader of the Democratic Russia movement and head of the president's analytical center for social and economic policy, was cochairman of the congress' organizing committee. This fact gives observers grounds to believe that the association may be involved in the ongoing political struggle in the very near future.

According to the congress' organizers, the meeting is being attended by around 1,000 chief managers of Russian enterprises from 80 regions of the country, and 620

enterprises have already applied for membership in the public organization. It is expected that in addition to the association's constituent documents and the charter, the congress will approve draft resolutions "On Credit, Investment, and Tax Policies," "On Legislative Backup for Economic Reform," "On Privatization," and "On Defense Industry Reform." The texts of the resolutions contain proposals for the legislative and executive authorities to devise a system of economic incentives to boost the privatization of enterprises and economic restructuring, and also proposals for the requisite "market-oriented" laws, government decisions, and presidential edicts to be approved as soon as possible.

Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property], who participated in the congress, said the main result of his committee's work was the participants of the congress themselves—chiefs of privatized enterprises. After highlighting briefly the successes of privatization, Chubays focused on what has yet to be done and, among other things, described as his mistake the fact that Goskomimushchestvo was unable to streamline the flow of enterprises' privatizations so as to obviate the need for enterprises' wasting a total of six months to cope with bureaucratic procedures. Chubays also mentioned "attacks on privatization" and the threat posed to it by both the Supreme Soviet and "bureaucratic structures" that are losing their authority over privatized enterprises.

The constituent congress adopted an appeal to the Russian Supreme Soviet strongly protesting Anatoliy Chubays' putative resignation from the chairmanship of Goskomimushchestvo (yesterday the question of his resignation was considered by a parliament session).

Central Bank Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev, in turn, said at the congress that there were no plans to give centralized credits to privatized and private enterprises, and the period of time required for banking operations to be completed can only be reduced after new satellites are launched and after plugging into the SWIFT system. In this connection, those attending the congress pointed out that they viewed the promotion of the reform of the state's credit and financial policies as one of their top priorities.

Yegor Gaydar, the president's economic adviser, who also addressed the congress, emphasized that privatized and private enterprises' interests need protection since "the state's policy continues to be anti-private."

In the opinion of observers, the Russian authorities attach great importance to the newborn association, as they hope that it will help them to create a pro-government lobby among directors of large enterprises to countervail the current associations of industrialists—the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs under Arkadiy Volskiy and the Federation of Russian Commodity Producers. According to Civic Union experts, however, the association will only be able to bring together directors of privatized and private enterprises, whereas the largest state-owned enterprises will remain in Arkadiy Volskiy's Union of Industrialists. Given this, those with whom the idea of such an association originated expect to increase the number of their allies by carrying out the destatization of enterprises. One sign that they can hope to succeed is Boris Yeltsin's address to the congress participants conveyed to them by Sergey Filatov, chief of the president's administration. The address reaffirms the president's conviction that the aim of reform in Russia should be the creation of a market-driven economy "based on private ownership." KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report the congress' results in its next issue on 6 April.

Gaydar Holds News Conference

LD0404110893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0447 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Summary] Yegor Gaydar, elected president of the Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises, gave a news conference yesterday. He said the new body will engage in political activity. Managers of enterprises have enormous political influence and they are divided into opponents and supporters of economic reform. Nechayev's dismissal was expected, Gaydar said, adding that he fears attempts to revive the good old traditions of Gosplan.

In answer to a question about what might be the consequences of the possible resignation of Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the Committee for Management of State Property of the Russian Federation, Yegor Gaydar replied:

[Begin Gaydar recording] I consider that if Chubays were to resign now, enormous damage would be done to the process of establishing the sector that was represented at that Congress. It would lead to organizational chaos. [end recording]

On the pace of privatization, Gaydar said:

[Begin Gaydar recording] I am profoundly convinced that all talk of slowing down privatization is simply saying that we should slow down the process of extricating our Russian economy from the crisis. [end recording]

Court Declares Yeltsin Decree 'Partially Unconstitutional'

LD0204140893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1334 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The Russian Constitutional Court dealt another blow on President Boris Yeltsin by ruling that his decree granting special powers to the Moscow government is partially unconstitutional.

The court said the president had no right to grant the mayor of Moscow additional powers. Those include the right to speed up privatisation of municipal property according to a special schedule, to introduce additional taxes, duties and fines, independently use non-budgetary funds, etc.

Yeltsin's decree "on providing fast privatisation of municipal property of Moscow" was also ruled as partially not corresponding to the Constitution.

The parliament speaker also turned out to be wrong when he signed a joint resolution with the president which concerns the division of Moscow into districts. The court ruled that the part of the resolution which shares powers between the federal and Moscow authorties is unconstitutional.

The provisions of the law on regional authorities which gave additional powers to the Moscow council and administration do not correspond to the Constitution either, the court said.

Chief Justice Valeriy Zorkin said the court will study the possibility of forwarding representations to the president and parliament speaker in connection with the ruling.

Constitutional Court Holds News Conference on Congress

MK0304123693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 2

[Anna Ostapchuk report under the rubric "Law": "Constitutional Court Judges: Today Constitution Serves Authorities' Fight Against Each Other]

[Text] A press conference devoted to the results of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies took place at the Constitutional Court on 1 April. It was supposed to have been given by Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin, but at the last moment circumstances prevented the chairman from taking part in it. The press conference was conducted by Constitutional Court judges Gadis Gadzhiyev, Nikolay Vedernikov, and Boris Ebzeyev. Journalists wanted the judges to tell them what they thought about accusations being heard against the Constitutional Court about its part in the latest political crisis, and about the main reproach—that the Constitutional Court has intruded into politics. The court's participation in resolving some political questions is provided for in the Constitution and the law on the Constitutional Court, representatives of the court stated. The court brings political disagreements into a legal framework, thus reducing the danger of their consequences for the constitutional system. According to Gadis Gadzhiyev, the court is only guilty of not having taken up a formal legal point of view; rather, it "proceeded from actual life, and reasoned on the substance of matters."

Most of the specific accusations, participants in the press conference stated, had been formulated on the basis of juggled facts or plain lies. For example, Gadzhiyev described as false the statement by Press and Information Minister Mikhail Fedotov to the effect that the Constitutional Court had passed judgment on some draft laws that it had no right to examine under the law on the Constitutional Court. Fedotov knew very well, the judge is sure, that the Constitutional Court at that time followed an entirely different procedure in its work. Namely, it was examining the constitutionality of an official's actions. This is Article 4 of the above law, whereas the checking of the constitutionality of regulatory documents is done in accordance with Article 1, and so forth.

On 1 April, the Constitutional Court received a letter from the General Prosecutor of the Russian Federation in which he requests information on what the court knows about the authors of the president's address to the people on 20 March. The court is prepared to provide this information. It is, however, obvious that it had to do part of the Prosecutor's Office's job for it. The persons we had questioned, Gadzhiyev said, took such pains evading answering the question as to who had authored the address, that this alone could arouse suspicion of its unconstitutionality. We could only manage to get the answer by asking the direct question: Who are the authors? They are Sergey Shakhray, chairman of the State Committee for the Affairs of the Federation; Yuriy Baturin, member of the Presidential Council; and Anatoliy Sliva, acting chairman of the State Legal Administration. The latter denies his part, though. Thus, we have found that there is not a single official on the president's staff who sees to it that Yeltsin's edicts correspond with the Constitution. Even the State Legal Administration gives no guarantee that a document is constitutional when endorsing it. Although, two months ago the president issued a directive defining the mechanism for the passage of his edicts. This mechanism in particular provides for documents to be agreed with the Ministry of Justice. As for the March package, however, the Justice Ministry did not take a hand in it.

Judge Ebzeyev complained at the end of the press conference that the Constitution today appears to have been turned by the authorities from an instrument of creation into a weapon for fighting among themselves.

Problems in Constitutional Court's Role Aired

LD0404223593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Interview with Anatoliy Kononov and Ernest Ametistov, Constitutional Court judges, by announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev—recorded; from the "Itogi" program]

[Text] [Kiselev] One can only regret that the only triumph which would have been timely right now, namely the triumph of constitutionality, has, alas, failed. The highly promising institution of supreme constitutional control has suddenly turned toward politics, somewhat losing its prestige. The prestige of the court as guardian

of the law depends not only on the degree to which the court is politicized, but also on the extent to which its decisions are implemented. In this connection, very recent events are of interest, namely the registration of the National Salvation Front by the Ministry of Justice and the latest CPSU congress. The "Itogi" program had as its guests judges of the Constitutional Court, who stated their particular point of view during examination of the recent sensational cases on the presidential address of 20 March and on the president's decree on the National Salvation Front.

[Kononov] Unfortunately, the court limited itself merely to one parameter, so to speak, in examining this case: The matter of whether or not the president was competent to deal with this matter and it did not, essentially, get down to examining what kind of organization this was, what aims it pursued, and did not in actual fact examine the National Salvation Front documents. So, I believe that what was contained in the preamble to the president's decree—the fact that was established by this decree—to the effect that this organization violated the constitution, remained valid and this was a direct basis for the minister of justice to refuse to register such an organization.

[Kiselev] And yet, this week the very opposite occurred. The National Salvation Front was registered, though in the absence of a minister of justice, it is true.

[Kononov] Yes, indeed, formally and in accordance with the law, the Ministry of Justice registers the statute of an organization and should check that the statute complies with the requirements contained in the law. One can say that the organization's statute itself is ideally clean. It contains no appeals, no illegal aspects. However, there is an aspect of the activity of this organization, which has now been demonstrated at its congress and in the manifestos and addresses which they published and made public.

[Ametistov] Here the activity of this organization and their key documents should have been carefully examined. Incidentally, the ministry should have done this also. All in all, attempts by judges, including myself, to touch on this matter in some way, were stopped during the case.

[Kiselev] Sorry. Stopped by whom?

[Ametistov] By the chairman and by judges.

[Kiselev] One gets the impression that the decisions which the Constitutional Court adopts have a considerable political slant?

[Ametistov] What can I say? You realize that is a grave accusation and I fear that it is beginning to correspond to reality. If we try and sum up some of the most recent, very important decisions by the Constitutional Court, namely the decision on the CPSU case—indeed not so much the decision itself, as the course of its implementation. The former structures of rayon, oblast, and kray party committees have started to be restored. Primary party organizations have begun to be restored—we have such cases—have begun to be restored at enterprises, which was categorically prohibited by the president's decree on de-partyization and confirmed by our decision.

Furthermore, just the other day, the congress of the CPSU was held. As far as the CPSU is concerned, there cannot be any ambiguity because we categorically confirmed that, that is to say, confirmed the president's decree regarding the CPSU. However, the congress went ahead. The CPSU is being recreated.

There has, so far, been no reaction to this from the court. But if one takes them altogether—the implementation of our decision on the CPSU, the decision on the National Salvation Front and the decision on the president's address—and one looks not only at them as purely juridical decisions, but also at the consequences which they bring about, a very strange picture emerges. It emerges, in my view, that the court is gradually turning into a kind of instrument of certain political forces. They are beginning to use the court. They are beginning to use the court to achieve their aims.

[Kiselev] But what are the mechanisms for putting this political pressure on the court? Is it carried out through specific members of the Constitutional Court, through its chairman, or in some other way?

[Ametistov] You know, there is no pressure whatsoever from outside. At least I, as a judge, have experienced none, and I know that this is the same for other judges. Absolutely not. We are sufficiently protected by our immunity from any pressure. Everything depends on internal convictions.

[Kononov] The court is, after all, one of the summits, so to speak, of power in the country, one of the branches, one of the institutions which has, by itself, to perform the role of a system of restraint and counterbalance in the political game. So, whether we like it or not, politics are present and will be present here. And there will also be political aspects and political expediency—we cannot get away from this.

Popularity Ratings of Politicians Detailed

LD0404231493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Apr 93

[From the "Itogi" program]

[Text] As far as the current president of Russia is concerned, the 25 April referendum is, for him, a kind of primary, as the Americans say, that is, initial elections. And despite what Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev thinks, observers are by no means so indisputably convinced about a second victory for Yeltsin. Although the president's popularity rating is not in itself particularly high, it is nevertheless considerably higher than that of others.

Right up to date, Aleksandr Rutskoy is in second place in virtually every popularity rating list. At the last elections, in June 1991, he got Yeltsin quite a few extra votes by being Yeltsin's running mate as vice president. But will Rutskoy be able to clock up as many votes? And in order to win, even more votes will be needed if he runs as an presidential candidate on his own. And what effect did the vice president's recent virtual complete break with Yeltsin have on Rutskoy's popularity rating? And who else is there, then? Of the old guard, there is perhaps Sobchak. But greater pressure is expected from the young guard, though not in that sense of the word, it's true. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has been almost blunt about his intentions; while Sergey Shakhray has been less explicit. if they were to come to agreement on how to distribute among themselves the jobs of president and premier, they would turn out to be a strong pair.

As for Khasbulatov, who emerges in the role of Yeltsin's chief political opponent today, he is highly unlikely to be able to compete as Yeltsin's chief competitor tomorrow—for a host of well-known reasons, one of them being that even the president's opponents wince to recall the scandals of Khasbulatov's splits with Yeltsin. With Yeltsin, with whom he was only recently on the same side of the barricades and whom he defended at the congress.

Frankly speaking, I am astonished at the great courage of the Supreme Soviet chairman, who is asking of you a mere trifle—not only is this not a breach of the constitution, but, well, I don't know, but personally, I would hesitate to take on these powers and rights in his place, and to assume the colossal responsibility for implementing them.

People say that history does not know the subjunctive tense, but the astonishing video clips you have just seen are like the chronicle of an alternative history—how things would have been had they turned out differently, had there been no confrontation of powers.

Filatov Remarks on Referendum Viewed

PM0204160193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "Russian President Has Begun To Prepare for Referendum"]

[Text] In the near future the Russian Federation president will finish working out the strategic line he will take in internal politics in the situation prevailing after the Ninth Congress. S. Filatov, leader of the president's administration, informed journalists of this at a briefing at the Kremlin 31 March.

As could be gleaned from S. Filatov's speech, this strategy's main feature will be intensive preparations for the referendum on 25 April. The leader of the president's administration refrained from talking in detail about B. Yeltsin's forthcoming specific actions, but there was an opportunity to form an idea of the conceptual points of the program in preparation.

The most important point seems to be that B. Yeltsin and his team have rejected the idea, considered earlier as one of the main options, of conducting in parallel with the referendum announced by Congress a plebiscite to which the president's questions could be submitted. The presidential team thinks that it is not right to dissipate efforts today and it is more expedient to concentrate on preparing for one event, especially as the referendum is backed by law, so consequently the process of preparing for it, holding it, and counting the votes will also be supervised by the prosecutor's office.

Of course, the list of questions approved by the Congress for submission to the referendum and the system of vote counting approved by the Congress do not suit the president. B. Yeltsin's team basically counts on the Constitutional Court to resolve these contradictions. In the meantime, as S. Filatov reported, the Constitutional Court has only received one petition on the Ninth Congress' activities from the presidential side. It proposes examinining the constitutionality of the procedure to impeach the president organized at the Congress. The remaining petitions will be submitted after the Congress decrees have been published and have entered into force.

S. Filatov did not rule out the possibility that the Constitutional Court will remove the second question from the ballot paper (on whether the voters have faith in the president's socioeconomic policy), and in its place a question about a new constitution will be included. At the same time the leader of the president's administration hinted that he does not hold out too great hopes for the Constitutional Court's assistance. Nevertheless, it is proposed to again publish the text of the new draft basic law in the press in the coming days.

The presidential team figures that in the period before the referendum the forces supporting the president will succeed in mounting a strong propaganda campaign. To this end the formation of a public council called upon to unite all democratic parties and movements is being completed. According to S. Filatov, prominent Russian politicians will head the council. A public headquarters for the preparation and holding of the referendum has also been established and has the task of ensuring that electoral commissions are formed in the provinces in accordance with democratic principles, and that a system for monitoring the voting and the counting of the votes is organized.

The president himself will not remain aloof from preparations for the referendum. As the leader of his administration reported, a timetable for B. Yeltsin's trips around the country on the eve of the referendum has already been drawn up. However, these trips will not prevent the president from visiting Vancouver in April. A series of consultative meetings with representatives of various parties and political movements is planned, and the problem of filling vacancies in the government will

also probably be discussed during these. Apart from this, the president has also decided to have more active contacts with the deputies. S. Filatov reported that agreement in principle has been reached with R. Khasbulatov on reconstructing the former presidential office in the House of the Soviets of Russia. It is supposed that B. Yeltsin will meet with legislators once a week in this office.

Asked what retaliatory steps by parliament he most fears, S. Filatov put the danger of provocations in first place. He considers that the saddest result of the Congress is that it has strengthened confrontational attitudes among the deputies. An atmosphere of fear is being whipped up in parliament today, S. Filatov stated. He reported that the day before the briefing an attempt was made at a closed session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium to remove Deputies S. Kovalev and S. Krasavchenko from the Presidium for their disloyal behavior at the Congress. The head of the Supreme Soviet's legal department has been removed from his post "for links with the leader of the president's administration." But the most alarming episode at this session, in S. Filatov's opinion, was the attempt to approve a decision to create a department for protection of parliament—effectively a paramilitary service, many thousands strong, with the right to carry out operational investigations and establish ties with foreign special services—which would be absolutely independent of the executive branch of power.

Today any provocation, S. Filatov emphasized, may cause society to explode in this incandescent political atmosphere. In the meantime, he reported, attempted provocations are continuing. For example, false rumors of government plans to increase fuel prices are being spread, and at several major enterprises workers are beginning to be scared with threats of imminent mass dismissals. Or take the example of the 52 private farmers in Krasnodar Kray whose land was taken away from them on the eve of the sowing campaign. In connection with this, the most important task of the president's supporters during preparations for the referendum is to ensure calm in society.

Commission Meets 2 Apr To Decide on Referendum

LD0204160693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr—The central election committee for electing Russian Federation people's deputies met in Moscow today to examine issues related to preparations for the all-Russian referendum of 25 April.

Four questions have been put to the referendum: 1. Do you trust B.N. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation? 2. Do you approve of the socioeconomic policy which has been implemented by the president of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation since 1992? 3. Do you think it necessary to hold preterm elections for the president of the Russian Federation? 4. Do you think it necessary to hold preterm elections of the people's deputies of the Russian Federation?

The form the voting slip should take was approved today. It will be ¼ foolscap. Each question should be printed on a piece of paper of different color. Voting slips can be of the same color, too, provided the ordinal number of the question put to the referendum is indicated in the upper left-hand corner of each slip.

The voting will be held from 0700 to 2200 on 25 April. The constituency commissions will have to submit protocols on the voting results in the constituency to the central election commission no later than 30 April. According to Vasiliy Kazakov, chairman of the central election commission, the official results of the referendum can be summed up 10 days after it is held, after the central election commission receives all the protocols on the results of voting; however, "operational information on the results of the referendum will be known much earlier."

The meeting of the commission also established the voting procedure for servicemen and other Russian citizens outside the Russian Federation.

Gaydar: Two Referendum Questions 'Outright Mockery'

OW0204195193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Congress of People's Deputies shows no respect for Russian society and Russian people. Our people are more intelligent than the Congress thinks," said former acting prime-minister Yegor Gaydar in an Interfax interview Friday [2 April]. He emphasized that he hopes that President Boris Yeltsin will win the April 25 referendum.

He thinks that two out of the four questions that the Congress wants answered at the referendum are "an outright mockery, designed to confuse the people." One of them is about the attitude towards the government's economic course. "This is like asking, how do you like the consequences of 75 years of communist rule? It makes no sense and sounds like a mockery," he said.

The third question, Gaydar said, on the need for a pre-term reelection of the president, "makes no sense. ... The answer to the question on confidence in the president determines the answer to this one," he explained.

In Gaydar's view, only the first and fourth questions, confidence in the president and pre-term reelection of the deputies, need to be voted on.

Gaydar thinks that during the two next months the economic state of Russia will be "quite fair. The inflation rate will not accelerate and will probably slow down as a result of the 'moderate' crediting and monetary policy of the government." What is going to happen will depend on the extent to which the government and Central Bank succeed in holding under control "the avalanche of requests" for additional large credits and budgetary appropriations. "If they do, thank God. But what with the political confrontation and the passion for preemptive action, they may yield...," said Gaydar.

Asked when he may be expected to return to politics, Gaydar answered: "I don't know."

Democratic Reforms Movement Calls for Referendum Yes Votes

OW0204222593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Four times yes" is how the political council of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms [RMDR] wants the referendum questions answered. Gavriil Popov, RMDR chairman, explained at a news conference that this signifies supporting the president "in the framework of a new Constitution, with new functions," support of a new socioeconomic policy that was declared by the president and of reelecting the president himself; in this point the RMDR position differs from that of Democratic Russia.

Popov expressed the hope that Democratic Russia which objects to reelecting Boris Yeltsin before his term expires will change its views.

The RMDR political council also wants the local authorities to poll the population on the need to have a new Constitution, to convene a Constitutional Assembly, and hold new elections. If one million people express their support of this idea, then a new referendum can be held which will relieve the existing Congress from work on a new Constitution.

The RMDR leader made it clear that a new Constitution must not provide for such a body as a Constitutional Court [CC] because, he thinks, the CC has become "a weapon in the political struggle." Its functions must be taken over by the Supreme Court of the country.

Voters Eligible for Referendum Equals 106 Million

OW0204222693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A total of 106 million people are eligible for voting in the April 25 all-Russian referendum, Vasiliy Kazakov, chairman of the Central Referendum Commission told Interfax Friday [2 April]. A sum of 20 Bn [billion] rubles has been appropriated to finance the referendum.

He said that none of the republics integrated in the Russian Federation has thus far refused to take part in the referendum. In addition, elections will be held in 89 constituencies.

Polling stations, Kazakov said, will be set up in all army units. All servicemen, no matter where they were drafted, will be able to vote.

Polling stations will also be set up in Russia's embassies and general consulates abroad. About 40,000 people who registered as citizens of Russia as well as embassy and consulate personnel will vote abroad.

Each of the four questions will be printed on a separate ballot; the ballots will be in different colors. Those who do not wish to answer some of the questions should not put the ballot into the box. Ballots where both possible answers are either left intact or crossed out will be regarded as invalid.

Kazakov predicted that 55 to 60 percent of eligible voters will show at the polling stations.

Zyuganov Urges Communists To Participate in Referendum

LD0404161693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The leader of the Russian Communist Party, Gennadiy Zyuganov, has called on the party supporters to take an active part in the referendum on 25th April. He said the Communists would vote no confidence to President Yeltsin and favor early presidential elections. Mr. Zyuganov disfavored the idea of early elections of the people's deputies. He said this could destabilize state power in Russia.

Democratic Russia Calls for World Monitoring of Referendum

LD0504101493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The coordination council of the Democratic Russia Movement [DRM] has called on the world community to sent observers to Russia to monitor the referendum on 25 April. This appeal is included in a message from the DRM council signed by the movement's cochairmen Ilya Zaslavskiy, Gleb Yakunin, Lev Ponomarev, and cochairwoman Galina Starovoytova, which was distributed today. It is necessary to exclude the possibility of doubts being raised by any political force about the objectivity of the voting procedure, the document underlines.

Media Issues

Yeltsin Issues Decree on 'Information Stability' Guarantees

LD0304080193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0625 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow, 3 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on guarantees for information stability at the Russian state television and radio company Ostankino, the president's press service announced today.

According to the document, Ostankino is accorded the status of a television and radio company of international significance. This has been done with the aim of upholding information stability, pursuing a responsible information policy, and reinforcing the legal framework for the company's work as a unique, unified information and technical complex, and also in connection with the expansion of its functions under a decision of the Council of CIS Heads of State on 22 January 1993.

The decree enters into force from the moment of publication.

[Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1100 GMT 3 April adds the following: "The Russian Council of Ministers has been charged with upholding Ostankino's right to all economic and other property on its books as of 1 January 1993, and providing for the implementation of full-scale cross-border broadcasting."]

'Haste' of Yeltsin Decree Viewed

LD0304191493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 3 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on guarantees for information stability at the Russian State Television and Radio Company Ostankino. Since this company is a unique integral information and technology complex, and in view of the extension of its functions, it has been accorded the status of a television and radio company of international significance. The decree supports the initiative to set up a cultural organization, the Rossiyskiye Universitety [Russian Universities] television company. The founders of this company are to be the Ostankino television company and the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company, i.e. our company.

Another presidential decree, the one of 19 January this year, had already transferred the Fourth Channel, which broadcasts popular science and educational programs, to the All-Russian State TV and Radio Company [ARSTRC], i.e the Second Channel. Structures have been set up and technical and production reorganization has been carried out. The commercial aspect has been totally excluded from broadcasts. Staff has been selected, and the work has started.

Incidentally, this morning the Fourth Channel informed its viewers that as from today its programs will at last be broadcast throughout the day. However, the new decree, prepared without notifying the management of the ARSTRC, cancels the previous decision and transfers the Fourth Channel to the ownership of two companies, Ostankino and ARSTRC.

Considering that educational broadcasting should be first and foremost consistent and systematic, it is hard to imagine how it can be governed by two masters. What looks alarming is the haste and ease with which the fate of production teams is decided. And this plays into the hands of those who seek to impose on the press the idea of a monitoring council. Isn't it a fine argument for them, the fate of broadcasting being decided with a stroke of a pen, from which the only protection is allegedly a monitoring council?

Congress Decree on Media 'Freedom of Speech' Published

PM0504110393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 Single Edition p 1

[Decree of the Congress of People's Deputies "On Measures to Ensure Freedom of Speech in State Television and Radio Broadcasting and News Services," dated 29 March and signed by R.I. Khasbulatov, Supreme Soviet chairman]

[Text] Political censorship in state television and radio broadcasting has now acquired a new specific character, which is manifesting itself in the uneven provision of airtime to proponents of various political views.

Given the acuteness of the situation, the need to eliminate the political monopolism of organs of power, political parties, and other public associations and individuals in state television and radio broadcasting and news services, in the interests of civil peace and public accord, and with the aim of de-ideologizing state television and radio broadcasting and preventing unconstitutional interference in its activity, as well as creating the right conditions for objective coverage by state television and radio broadcasting of events within the country and abroad, the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies **decrees**:

1. Until a law on the organization of television and radio broadcasting is adopted in the Russian Federation, the activity of state television and radio broadcasting companies is to be carried out in accordance with the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media" and the present decree. The activity of television and radio broadcasting organs of administration not envisaged in the aforesaid law is to be discontinued.

Edict No. 1256 of the Russian Federation President dated 17 October 1992 "On the 'Rossiya' Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service (FTS 'Rossiya')" and Edict No. 1647 dated 25 December 1992 "On the Russian Federal Information Center" are to be repealed

once the Russian Federal Information Center and the "Rossiya" Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service are abolished.

2. To establish that the representative organs of state power are cofounders of the state television and radio broadcasting companies established by the relevant organs of executive power.

3. To acknowledge as necessary the creation of observation councils by the representative organs of state power to ensure freedom of speech in state television and radio broadcasting. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is to elaborate and adopt within two weeks a Provision on the Federation Observation Council Ensuring Freedom of Speech in State Television and Radio Broadcasting, and examine the draft law on the organization of television and radio broadcasting within a month.

The main tasks of the observation councils ensuring freedom of speech in state television and radio broadcasting are as follows:

to ensure objective coverage of economic and social problems and events by state television and radio broadcasting;

to grant various political and other public associations equal opportunities to expound their viewpoints;

to implement the necessary measures to prevent political monopolization of state television and radio broadcasting.

4. To establish that appointment to office and dismissal from office of leaders of federal state television and radio broadcasting companies is coordinated with the Federal Observation Council Ensuring Freedom of Speech in State Television and Radio Broadcasting.

5. The Russian Federation Ministry of Press and Information is to continue to ensure the financing, material and technical provision, and supervision [kontrol] of the financial-economic activity of the state television and radio broadcasting companies.

6. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is to make amendments and addenda to the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media" in connection with the adoption of the present decree.

7. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is to introduce into the RSFSR Criminal Code and the RSFSR Code on Administrative Violations within a period of two months the Russian Federation Law "On the Principles of the Taxation System" and other legislative acts involving amendments and addenda in connection with the adoption of the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media."

8. The Russian Federation Ministry of Press and Information is to ensure supervision of the observance of the law in the activity of television and radio companies and other mass media.

9. The present decree comes into effect from the moment it is published.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] 29 March 1993, Moscow, the Kremlin.

No. 4686-1

Author Comments on Decree

MK0304105093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 5

[Interview with Yu.M. Baturin, one of the authors of the law on the press, by correspondent I.P.; place and date not given; carried under "Analysis" rubric: "Laws Outside the Law. Yuriy Baturin, One of the Authors of the Law on the Press, Comments on Congress Decree"]

[Text] [I.P.] Yuriy Mikhaylovich, many people regard the Ninth Congress decree "On Measures To Ensure Freedom of Speech in State Television and Radio Broadcasting and in Information Services" as the kiss of death for television. But there is also another, optimistic, viewpoint. An "Ostankino" deputy chairman said: "This decree does not frighten me because it will certainly not work. We must carry on as though nothing had happened."

[Baturin] Shchedrin, I think, said: "The severity of Russian laws is tempered by their optional application." I would add Baturin's formula to Shchedrin's: "The contradictory nature of Russian laws, which reaches the absurd, is rectified by their optional application."

Unfortunately, I have not yet received the text of the decree, although all the other Congress documents have already appeared. People are evidently attempting to impart a legally good-looking form to it. Possibly the final text will differ significantly from the original. But on the basis of the draft decree and the amendments which I heard, I can say that this decree contradicts the Constitution—at least on two positions—violating the principle of the separation of powers and affecting the rights of the Federation's subjects. They themselves—republics, autonomous entities, krays, oblasts, cities—have the right to decide who the founder of their television and radio companies will be.

This decree contradicts the law on the mass media. The law contains a strict list of those who cannot be founders; this list is exhaustive and cannot be extended. But the decree extends it, depriving the executive branch's organs of founders' rights.

This decree contradicts the decree of the previous, Eighth Congress, which says: "To deem invalid agreements and other normative acts of state organs and officials (that is, of the Congress too) which do not accord with the Russian Federation Constitution and Federation Treaty and which are aimed at redistributing powers among federal organs of state power and organs

of power of the Russian Federation's subjects." It is quite obvious that the deputies forgot about the Eighth Congress decree, although only two weeks had elapsed. Thus, according to the Eighth Congress, the decree they have adopted is invalid from the outset. How can such nonsense be analyzed? The best tactic is therefore to relax and work in the way we worked previously.

[I.P.] But how can, for instance, Bella Kurkova work if her Federal Television Center [FTS] is liquidated?

[Baturin] "Liquidate" was written in the draft, but during the discussion of amendments it was decided that "liquidate" is a very terrifying word and that "abolish" should be written. But what "abolish" means is not something I know or the law knows. The law envisions two concepts: "reorganization" and "liquidation." Therefore, if the amendment is passed everything remains as it is.

[I.P.] The words will be changed. "Bring into accordance." After all, they have also decided to bring the law on the mass media into accordance with theirs.

[Baturin] In order to "bring something into accordance" you have to know what you are dealing with. From what was said there during the discussion of amendments I formed the impression that they simply do not understand what they are talking about. But even if they bring the law on the mass media into accordance, this has nothing to do with the problem we are talking about, because there is also the law on the enterprise, about which they have simply forgotten.

[I.P.] Of what relevance is the law on the enterprise here?

[Baturin] In the respect that "Ostankino" is not part of the mass media. There are certain programs that are part of the mass media, but on the whole "Ostankino" is a medium for disseminating programs, an enterprise. Consequently, we are leaving the realm of the law on the mass media and entering the realm of the law on the enterprise and entrepreneurial activity—in which it is written: Company leaders are appointed by the administration organs. Consequently, the executive branch has both appointed and will appoint them. Or deputies must say: We are not worried about laws, there is the Congress and there are its decrees. In that case laws can be changed and repealed from Congress to Congress. Limitless prospects for lovers of legal paradoxes open up here.

The most terrifying thing that could happen is if a war for the television centers begins between the various branches of power. Because, as you will recall, the most terrifying events begin at television centers.

[I.P.] But actually there is the president's edict on guarantees of information stability, which nobody, I believe, has rescinded. How does it fit in with the Congress decree?

[Baturin] In principle not at all—just like other Russian laws. It is primarily Russian Television that will fall under the steamroller of this decree—the president's edict is of a recommendatory nature toward it. But unlike the Congress the president acted correctly: He issues a directive on "Ostankino" and "Rossiya" FTS and leaves parliament the right to control and regulate Russian Television's work. The Congress just went ahead and prescribed general rules for everybody. We can see a certain parallelism in these two documents. The decree talks about supervisory councils, the edict about boards of guardians, but it is not a question of names, not only of names. A board of guardians supervises what goes out on screens, receives claims from political groups and citizens, considers them, and issues recommendations to television. While a supervisory council's functions are "to ensure coverage of social and political problems and events." But it is impossible "to ensure coverage" after the event, it is possible only before the event. In other words, political censorship is being introduced. This is not to mention that such wordings as "the introduction of strict regulation of the utilization of state television and radio broadcasting for the purposes of political propaganda and agitation" are extremely ambiguous. This can be read as follows: Right now there is plenty of propaganda and agitation; this must be strictly regulated and decreased. Or possibly another way: State television and radio broadcasting must be regulated as strictly as possible in order to carry out propaganda and agitation. It is very dangerous when a legal norm can be read in two opposite ways. The control that parliament is proposing to exercise through supervisory councils is supercontrol, monopolism. It is a bad thing if the executive branch also starts to exercise this control, but it is 10 times worse if this is done by only one branch of power.

What encourages me? I was Yegor Yakovlev's adviser and was present during his talks with the opposition last summer. I realized then that it would be impossible to set up supervisory councils. The factions and groups themselves would never agree. Of course, they could simply divide all the air time between themselves. They would survive two days on the air, then there would be a demonstration of indignant viewers at "Ostankino."

Further on News Conference at Information Ministry

Yushenkov on Parliament's 'Paramilitary' Force

OW0104203593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first deputy leader of Russia's Federal Information Center [FIC] Sergey Yushenkov accused the Russian Supreme Soviet of a wish to create its own para-military formations. Addressing a press conference in Moscow together with the FIC chief Mikhail Poltoranin, Yushenkov mentioned a draft provision on Department of parliament's guard, as a prove to his statement, developed by Aleksandr Korovin, the chairman of the

Supreme Soviet committee on servicemen, invalids, and veterans of war. In Yushenkov's words, it was supposed to set this department with functions to guard leadership of the Supreme Soviet and with the right to guard state sites and preventive prevention of administrative legal violations. "The deputies are not sure that they can seize the power only with the help of amendments to the Constitution, and intend to create their own paramilitary structures," summarized Yushenkov.

In response to our Interfax correspondent, the first deputy FIC leader recognized that the provision on Department of parliament's guard was considered at the presidium of the Supreme Soviet on March 20 without Ruslan Khasbulatov and members of the presidium categorically rejected the document having assessed it as "an outrageous one." Now, Yushenkov asserts, the provision has been presented to committees and commissions for consideration.

Yushenkov is also sure that the deputies try to abrogate the April 25 referendum, probably, with the help of the federation's subjects because they "fear the population's desire."

Poltoranin Statements Viewed

LD0304064893 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Report on news conference entitled "On the Protection of the Freedom of the Mass Media" held by Mikhail Poltoranin, head of Federal Information Center, on 1 April in Moscow; by Radio Odin special correspondent Andrey Babayev]

[Text] The news conference by Mikhail Poltoranin, head of Russia's Federal Information Center, in connection with the decision of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies on ensuring freedom of speech on state television, aroused immense interest and assembled a large number of journalists, both Russian and foreign. This decision has undoubtedly agitated all representatives of the mass media. And on the whole, there is good reason for this. For a long time, we have been fighting for freedom of speech; now, however, a number of points in the decision essentially put television and radio under the control of the congress and the Supreme Soviet. This is how Mikhail Poltoranin evaluated this document.

[Begin Poltoranin recording] It is a question of a seizure of the mass media, first of all of television, and placing it in the hands of the Supreme Soviet. It is not by chance that, as you will remember, it says there that supervisory councils are being set up. These supervisory councils appoint the heads of television and radio companies with the agreement of the Supreme Soviet. And what is more, the supervisory councils are appointed by the Supreme Soviet. In other words, this is an attempt to completely monopolize the mass media, and in this way, to do everything to push through the Supreme Soviet's own policy via state mass media.

I listened closely to Ruslan Imranovich on television. And on the whole, I love listening to him when he speaks because what he says is like a brook, babbling its way down a valley, or somewhere else. But always, by force of habit, when I listened to the babbling speeches of our secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee and our leaders, I always separated words from deeds. And when I was listening to him, for some reason, behind his words about wanting complete freedom for the mass media, wanting everyone to be able to write freely what they think, I remembered the incident with IZVESTIYA. You know perfectly well when there even was an unconcealed attempt to change the status of the independent newspaper IZVESTIYA. They gave up on that and have now decided to put pressure on IZVESTIYA by means of property, to take away its building. That is all these words are worth. [end recording]

A statement of the Federal Information Center for the mass media was distributed to the journalists present at the news conference. It literally says the following: This shameless resolution has violated the third and fourth articles of the Constitution of the Russian Federation and also the Seventh and 18th articles of the Law on the Mass Media. But this time, the Leninist plan for the seizure of the post office and the telegraph will not succeed, it points out.

[Begin Poltoranin recording] You know that a large group of Russian people's deputies—about one hundred people—has appealed to the Constitutional Court to get it to declare this decision unconstitutional, and I am convinced that the Constitutional Court—inasmuch as today it needs to somehow restore its image in the eyes of society—will adopt a decision in defense of the mass media. Until the Constitutional Court reaches a verdict, the effect of this decision is suspended, and in this way, neither the Federal Information Center nor the Federal Television and Radio Broadcasting Service, which are being abolished, nor the decrees, the president's decrees, which are being rescinded, are affected by this decision. We exist, as before, and we hope that we will continue to exist. [end recording]

Nevertheless, according to the words of Poltoranin himself, to date, specific encroachments on the rights of the press, provoked by this decision, have already taken place.

[Begin Poltoranin recording] Today, journalists phone us from everywhere and say that there are attempts already to seize local, regional television and radio companies—and there are 93 state companies in our country. Serious clashes are taking place. The president has said that he will not give up the mass media and has instructed Internal Affairs Minister Yerin and other power structures to the effect that the mass media should not be drawn into this fruitless and pointless struggle. As a mirror, we must reflect life and when today—each morning—we arrive at work, there is one security force on duty. But if tomorrow or by lunchtime this security

force is forced out and another takes its place, this will not do; we must, under all circumstances, have normal, calm work. [end recording]

I permit myself to also quote the final part of the statement of the Federal Information Center: The fourth estate is probably the only force that ambitious politicians cannot break or buy. At an extremely difficult point in Russia's history, this force can defend and uphold not just its own freedom but also the freedom of Russia. All that remains for myself is to associate myself with this optimistic statement. And even though today one can buy just about anything and maybe anyone can buy anything, I hope that this does not apply to journalists.

More Poltoranin, Yushenkov Comments

MK0204132493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Apr 93 p 10

[Vasiliy Dedushkin report: "Mikhail Poltoranin's News Conference. "Federal Information Center Considers Congress Decree Anticonstitutional"]

[Text] A news conference held by Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the Russian Federal Information Center, was devoted to criticism of the Ninth (Extraordinary) Congress decree, "On Measures To Ensure Freedom of Speech in State Television and Radio Broadcasting." The former vice premier and Russian People's Deputy Sergey Yushenkov, his deputy at the Federal Information Center, believe that the Constitutional Court, having examined this Congress decree, must declare it anticonstitutional. Poltoranin and Yushenkov explained the Federal Information Center's position regarding the Russian parliament's activity.

The most interesting fact reported to journalists at the news conference was Poltoranin's statement that yesterday Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray finished correcting the text of the draft constitution approved by the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies. According to Poltoranin, the mass media will publish the text of the draft constitution in the near future.

Mr. Poltoranin, commenting on the decree on freedom of speech adopted at the last Congress of People's Deputies, said that he does not see anything surprising in this document. According to him this decree does not stand out from the general canvas of the Supreme Soviet's lawmaking work. Forecasting the prospects for the Supreme Soviet's activity, Mr. Poltoranin noted that "Khasbulatov will not be playing a significant role there." "He has already won back what he lost by fulfilling the role of a battering ram breaking down the gates of the executive branch," he stressed. In his opinion, however, considerable responsibility also rests with the Council of Ministers leadership, which to this day has not elaborated a regional economic policy; this, in turn, is arousing the regions' displeasure. Mr. Yushenkov expressed his confidence that the Supreme Soviet leadership would take all possible measures to prevent the holding of a referendum or to cast doubt on the results of the voters' expression of will. According to him, the Russian president is acting not according to the method of "authoritarian pressure and crushing the reforms through dictatorship," but by means of democratic transformations. Commenting on the Congress' results, Poltoranin stated that the main result of the Congress was "the completion of the priming of Russian society in 'light' democratic tones." "This area will no longer be colored brown," he summed up.

Press Minister Fedotov Cited

LD0404101093 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1430 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] With the unhappy memory of the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies, the editorial collectives of the electronic news media—or, more simply, of radio and television—are more and more frequently asking just one thing: What will happen to freedom of speech on radio and television?

Here is an assessment, given by Mikhail Fedotov, Russian minister of press and information, during a talk with journalists, of the resolution adopted by the congress:

[Begin Fedotov recording] The resolution adopted by the congress was to a considerable extent the result of the struggle for the mass news media that has been under way in our country. This is connected to quite an extent with our historically formed mentality, whereby every state body or every public organization wants to make this or that part of the mass media their own organ. The tug-of-war in this sphere is a natural continuation of that mentality.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that the congress had for a long time been moving toward the resolution. The issue had been raised repeatedly, but each time the congress managed to stop at and not step over the dangerous edge. On this occasion it stepped over the edge. True, afterwards, thank goodness, with the assistance of Vladimir Pavlovich Lisin, who is now sitting alongside me, it nevertheless made a very important amendment which softened the impact of the resolution. If you recall, the resolution originally said that the rights of the founders of all television companies automatically pass from bodies of executive authority and pass automatically to bodies of representative authority. Besides the fact that this was contrary to the law, this also created an absolutely colossal supermonopoly, because in that event all the state audio and visual mass news media would have been concentrated in the hands of the representative bodies of authority. [end recording]

Committee for Freedom of Speech Issues Statement

LD0204162193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The resolution "on measures to ensure freedom of speech in state TV and radio broadcast and news services", adopted by the 9th Congress of Russian People's Deputies, grossly violates the law on mass media, says a statement of the Committee for Freedom of Speech and Correspondents' Rights of the International Confederation of Correspondents' Unions, circulated here today.

The document stressed the resolution "testifies to an open striving of the representative authority to subordinate the press and introduce tough censorship". It is quite clear the offered mechanism of equal distribution of broadcast time between various political forces in the parliament is of open confrontation character and is introduced from strength, they said.

The Committee for Freedom of Speech and Correspondents' Rights expressed the assurance neither the executive nor the representative bodies must have the right to found mass media bodies, and the state TV can be controlled only on the basis of a public compromise, which is impossible without the participation of the government and the president.

The congress resolution grossly defies correspondents' rights and puts obstacles in their fulfilment of professional duties, says the statement. The committee expressed the assurance the Constitutional Court will consider the resolution in the immediate future and cancel it.

Ostankino Broadcast Changes, 'Ferment From Within' Analyzed

MK0304091493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 5

[Irina Petrovskaya article under "Press and Power" rubric: "Response Outside Kremlin Wall. Desire To Oblige Power Benefits No One"]

[Text] The day after the end of the multi-part thriller "The Ninth Congress of People's Deputies" "Ostankino," frozen in expectation of abrupt changes from outside, was once again in ferment from within. Almost 150 employees of the "Politika" studio received notification of their "release," in other words, dismissal. The "Politika" studio is being liquidated by order of Company Chairman V. Bragin. The "Rezonans" ["Response"] studio is being created in its place. Ostankino wits at once nicknamed it "Response Outside the Kremlin Wall," bearing in mind that the renaming was initiated by "Politika" Director A. Pimanov, who is the author and anchorman of the program "Outside the Kremlin Wall."

One of the company's leaders (who asked not to be named) laughed at my question as to what this order means and advised me not to take it seriously: "The order is so legally incompetent that it will most likely be recalled. There is no need whatever to liquidate the entire studio and dismiss all the employees in order to change the name...."

It would be interesting to know why orders are issued which "will most likely be recalled." Why this word game and this naive attempt to camouflage political broadcasting with the help of senseless renaming, if we see on the screen the obvious priority given to political "topical" problems?

The next day Bragin voiced dissatisfaction with the Board of Directors, which had not supported the chairman's recent idea of renaming the state company a public one. Then, it was said, "Ostankino" would not come under the Congress decree. Another question: What is "public television," if the money for it comes from the state's budget?

Meanwhile, "Ostankino" had a real chance to avoid direct tutelage by the Russian legislature, but missed it. This was not its fault, but the fault of dim-witted politicians who are incapable of calculating possible options for the development of events a few moves ahead.

Although Yegor Yakovlev's idea of turning "Ostankino" into an interstate company elicited a lot of argument, it was still supported by the president, who is interested in preserving a single information area and influence on the territory of the former Union. The idea was making slow, creaking progress toward realization when its opponents came up with "convincing" counterarguments. An interstate company had to be a closed-type joint-stock company, in which the founding states would be the shareholders. In Russia it would be subordinate to the Federal Property Fund headed by one Tabeyev, a man from Khasbulatov's entourage. Hence, "Ostankino" should not pass to anyone. They managed to convince the president of this. Had "Ostankino" gained the status of interstate television last fall, the people's deputies would hardly have dared now to encroach upon the first channel. Their arms would have been too short. But, alas, the Russian person in general and the politician in particular is wise after the event, counting and relying in his activity not on common sense but on an instant response outside the Kremlin wall.

Just such a response is the aim of the clumsy, hasty broadcasts propagandizing the reforms and the president's policy, which appeared in large numbers recently on the first channel and which, I am sure, largely provoked the Congress decree. Just a couple of months ago "Ostankino" could have been apolitical rather than excessively politicized. It adopted a stand of opposition, albeit spontaneous opposition, to all the branches of power, criticizing parliament, the government, and the president. There were no grounds for accusing the president and the executive of a monopoly on television. Crude propaganda actions do a disservice to the people for whose sake they are undertaken by zealous officials. There are rumors at "Ostankino" that on Bragin's

instructions Pimanov, the director of "Politika"-"Rezonans," will now make a weekly program entitled "15 Minutes With Yeltsin." The day after its first broadcast parliament will certainly demand "15 Minutes With Khasbulatov," and the Constitutional Court "15 Minutes With Zorkin." And so forth down the list.

The desire to oblige the power and to do it good has never yet benefited either the power itself or those who are anxious to oblige it. The example of Kravchenko and those who with him zealously "carried out the president's will" would appear to be a lesson to others—the present ones. No, everything repeats itself. What difference does it make which of the state leaders—good or bad—you endeavor to oblige?

Military & Economic Issues

Court Rules Grachev's Firing of Terekhov 'Unlawful'

MK0304141693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 2

[POSTFACTUM report under the rubric "Judicial News": "Action Brought by an Officer Against Russian Federation Minister Upheld"]

[Text] The military court of the Moscow military garrison chaired by a military judge, Captain Aleksandr Ababkov, resumed the hearing of an action brought by Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Terekhov, chairman of the Russian "Officers Union," against Army General Pavel Grachev, defense minister of the Russian Federation, concerning the former's illegal discharge from the Armed Forces. Terekhov was discharged by the defense minister's order for active participation in political activities.

At Stanislav Terekhov's demand, the court limited itself to examining his activities before the order on his discharge had been announced. The defense produced some facts: Stanislav Terekhov's statements in the press, at various demonstrations, and in meetings of a political nature in the specified period.

Terekhov's lawyers, however, insisted that the very notion of "political activities" legally made no sense, and therefore could not represent a subject for discussion.

According to the plaintiff's side, the essence of the defense minister's actions consisted in a contest against an officer who had so far not lost his "honor and conscience, and also consisted in being a political crackdown against a dissident."

The military court of the Moscow military garrison ruled to uphold Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Terekhov's complaint, and recognized as unlawful Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's order. The defense side told your correspondent that it would appeal against the Moscow garrison military court in accordance with the established procedure in the military court of the Moscow military okrug.

Head of Tribunal Cited

LD0204164293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—The Moscow tribunal has ruled to instruct the Russian defence minister and bodies of military administration to repeal an order on the dismissal of Lieutenant-General Stanislav Terekhov and reinstate him in the Russian armed forces.

On Thursday [1 April], the tribunal passed its verdict on a suit brought by Terekhov against Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, in Terekhov's favour.

Terekhov is a chairman of the Russian Union of Officers which was established a year and a half ago as a public organisation of Russian servicemen. At present, most of the union members are officers in reserve.

"After making an inquiry into the suit, the tribunal arrived at a conclusion that Terekhov had been dismissed from the Army for 'political activity' on the order of Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev in violation of the Russian law and the Russian Constitution," Captain of Justice Aleksandr Ababkov, who had chaired the tribunal, told TASS on Friday.

Ababkov said that Terekhov's dismissal was not made on the ground of legal documents, but on the Russian defence minister's oral instructions banning servicemen from "going in for politics".

"Taking into account that on April 25 servicemen will vote at the referendum on political problems, the dismissal of Terekhov 'for political activities' is nonsense," the judge said.

The defence minister was not present in the courtroom. His interests were represented by officials from the Russian Defence Ministry Managing Department and the Employment Department of the Humanitarian Academy of the Russian Armed Forces, where Terekhov worked.

A complaint against the verdict passed by the tribunal of the Moscow garrison may be lodged in ten-days time.

New Fleet Commander Appointed; Old One Not Yet Fired

MK0204140493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 93 p 2

[POSTFAKTUM report under the "Army" rubric: "New Fleet Commander Arrives. Bureaucratic Maneuverings in President's Administration"]

[Text] In the military's view, the Russian president is not entitled to relieve Gennadiy Khvatov, commander of the Pacific Fleet, of his post.

It transpired from competent sources close to the Russian Navy that Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, who is now visiting the Pacific Fleet, has found himself in an awkward situation. While in Vladivostok, he was to introduce Vice Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, the new commander of the Pacific Fleet. The order on Gurinov's appointment has already been signed by Boris Yeltsin, supreme commander-in-chief of the Russian Armed Forces, but it has not yet arrived at the publishing department of the Russian president's apparatus because of disagreements among the authorities over the fact that the order lacks the second component—concerning the dismissal of Fleet Commander Gennadiy Khvatov.

The military insists that since Khvatov was appointed by the Russian defense minister, it is he who can relieve the fleet commander of his duties. The apparatus of the Security Council secretary, in turn, disagrees with this stance. According to the law, it is the Russian president alone who is entitled to dismiss officials holding such positions. Observers note that the crux is what language will be used in the order on the admiral's dismissal and whether it is linked to the incident at a training unit on Russkiy Island. Observers believe that the military, apparently, do not want this wording to be sharp.

Vice Admiral G. Gurinov has spent most of his military career in the Far East. He commanded a ship, a large formation, was chief of staff and commander of the Kamchatka Flotilla, then chief of staff of the Black Sea Fleet. His previous post was deputy commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy. Those familiar with Gurinov point out that he is a high-class professional and a kind, sociable person.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Military Draft

LD0204134893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Today the Russian president issued a decree on drafting Russian citizens born in 1966-75 for military service in the Russian Federation Armed Forces and other troops and military formations in April-June this year. The same decree dismisses the soldiers, sailors, sergeants, sergeant majors, and military engineers who have completed their terms of their service from military service and transfers them to the reserve.

Yeltsin Decree Eases Oil Price Increases for Rural Goods

LD0204143093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow, 2 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the president of the Russian Federation has reported that President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree today "On the extra charges on oil products for supply and marketing." The measures envisaged in this document are aimed at reducing the expenses of rural goods producers caused by the increase in the price of oil products. Thus, the decree is aimed at ensuring that agriculture is able to work without disruption in the spring fieldwork period.

Boris Yeltsin instructed the Russian Federation Government to halt the validity of the legal enactments on raising the extra charges on oil products for supply and marketing and to maintain the charges at the level of 1 March 1993. At the same time, the government has been instructed to review, within the next two months, the question of providing compensation from budget funds to oil product supply organizations for the additional expenditures connected with raising the tariffs for transport services, the report from the president's press service says.

Government To Stop Subsidizing Centralized Imports

OW0204141093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1331 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has ordered the Finance Ministry by April 15 to work on significantly lowering the volume of subsidies on centralized imports, planning to entirely end such subsidies in 1993.

In a resolution signed by the cabinet head, it states that these measures are motivated by the necessity of keeping the state debt from growing, to reduce subsidies to the use of imported goods to the detriment of domestically produced items, to end cases of dumping prices on imports and to reduce the disparity between exchange rates.

In order to reach these goals, the Finance Ministry in conjunction with the Ministries for the Economy and for Foreign Economic Relations, as well as the RF [Russian Federation] committee on price policy, have been ordered to gradually pare down the list of subsidized goods and the volume of subsidies set aside for imports depending on the RF budget.

Chernomyrdin Seeks New Foreign Trade Policy

PM0204150993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Apr 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Foreign Trade Strategy Changes Radically. From the Russian Federation Council of Ministers Presidium Session"]

[Text] Journalists from the democratic and probably also the opposition press have every reason to call Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin man of the week. Indeed, after his first public speeches as premier, in which he

gave assurances that he would justify the trust of deputies and persuasively asked that the government not be prevented from working, and later, after his not always comprehensible first practical steps, it was the last week of March which enabled us to see him as a strong political figure in Russia.

This became especially clear when he resolutely supported the president and declared loyalty to the course of reforms and the need for all those who represent the executive branch to observe the strictest discipline and responsibility. He appeared before the public and the people as a figure occupying a very definite stance—that of a reforming premier, a democrat premier, an innovating premier.

The session of the Council of Ministers Presidium of the day before yesterday once more confirmed that this impression about the figure of the premier is not mistaken or temporary. A question of huge importance was examined: the state program for stimulating exports. Undoubtedly S. Glazyev, leader of the foreign economic department, presented a well prepared, considered report on the state of affairs in foreign economic activity and the prospects for improving it.

Here are just a few figures. There was a marked downturn in trade in machines and equipment even back at the end of the eighties. In 1991 it became wholesale: Exports fell almost threefold in comparison with the previous year. The fall slowed somewhat last year—exports were only 9.3 percent down on 1991.

Even these general statistics enable us to see what a serious breakdown trade in machine and technical output is experiencing on the world market and to understand the government's alarm over the prevailing situation. After speeches by participants in the session and the approval of an action program taking into account the exchange of opinions and amendments, everyone waited to see what the premier would say. His speech was programmatic in character. It turned out that the government still does not have a clear, well considered foreign economic policy that really meets the requirements of the time. And this is not so much the fault of the ministry's employees as our common state misfortune.

The thing is that in previous decades foreign trade activity has been structured on the basis of two main principles. Our country was pampered on the world market and its representatives were greeted with open arms, in the expectation of deliveries of important raw material products from the former Union. Just as eagerly we were sold equipment for the production of raw materials. In other words, all exports and imports centered around the sale of raw materials and the purchase of the equipment needed to extract these raw materials—mainly oil and gas.

The upshot was that the country gave huge help to the West in the creation of jobs and the improvement of enterprises producing equipment for the fuel and raw materials complex. We ourselves did not develop this sector. The West, well aware of the conditions in which we live and the state of our resources, and informed about the existing raw material reserves and possibilities of grain production, imposed its own policy on us. And together with heavy equipment we purchased grain from the West as well.

The result is well known to all: We are virtually unable to enter the Western market for machine building output. It was in line with these conditions that the activity of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations was structured. And now the West is ready to grant us $7 billion for the development of fuel and raw material sectors. But we do not know how to exploit these funds; we have no way of capitalizing on these credits.

On the basis of this analysis V. Chernomyrdin came to the following basic conclusion: Foreign economic policy needs to be radically altered and formulated in line with the profound transformations under way in society. For this it is necessary to know what our country is—in other words a presidential republic—and to see what we want to achieve in the next few years in the political and economic sphere and how we can reach the set goals.

The fact that Russia has in practice lost the market formed by the countries of the former CEMA and is now losing the market formed by the CIS countries should not be overlooked. Naturally, for this reason, without impeding and without freezing the very idea of "buying and selling" on the foreign market (the country cannot do without it), an economic blockade of Russia must be prevented. To this end we should simultaneously create a CIS common market and restore economic relations with the former socialist countries of East Europe.

We need a new and influential foreign economic policy which will place Russia among powerful exporters of machine building products. Why? Russia won't simply be allowed into the world market even if we offer goods of no worse quality than Western goods. In speaking of the creation of a new policy in foreign trade, we should not forget the problem of the comprehensive approach in forming foreign economic policy.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations needs close and profound contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other departments and sectors producing goods for export; it needs to train new cadres. The lobbying system must be mastered. We all know that foreign businessmen come to us with proposals and projects already prepared and elaborated. But our own businessmen frequently look like "emporers with no clothes" on such trips.

Thus the government is faced with extremely complex and crucial tasks: To transform foreign economic activity in such a way that policy in this sphere fully matches the goals of a democratic, rule-of-law state. Clearly Minister of Foreign Economic Relations S. Glazyev will need to perfect and improve the program presented, and then the Council of Ministers Presidium

will again return to this issue, after which we will be able to acquaint ourselves more closely with the projected measures and policy.

It is very important for the project to be the object of collective discussion by competent state organs and specialists, including commissions of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. If further work on the project is successfully organized on a collective basis, we will have a truly reliable foreign economic policy. And the opposition will be unable to accuse the government of acting in isolation from all other branches of power, and hence will be unable to lay claim to a state approach in its activity.

Moscow Residents Polled on Economic Changes

MK0304142293 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 7

[Report by Professor V. Komarovskiy, leader of "Ekspress" sociological service, under "Dialogue with Reader" rubric: "River Does Not Reverse Its Flow"]

[Excerpt] While politicians are trying to ascertain which of them are more important and more needed, ordinary citizens have trivial concerns—how to survive, what to do in order to keep up with the constantly rising prices, where to get the money to feed and clothe the family and to provide it with normal housing conditions. This constant headache does not increase optimism, as shown by the results of analyzing the replies to a questionnaire put to our readers by the newspaper's sociological service. On the contrary, from the end of last December through March of this year the number of pessimistically minded people experiencing social despair even increased, although the country's prime minister changed during this time and the mood of many people could have been expected to improve. The following, however, is how Muscovites replied, in December and March, to the question, "Do you share the opinion of a number of economists and politicians that the situation will stabilize in 1993 and that an improvement will begin in 1994" (as percentages of the total number of people polled):

	December	March
Entirely share	8	6
Partly share, partly not	10	12
Do not share	28	31
Believe the present reform is doomed to fail	43	50
Hard to say	11	7

We should probably understand people who are literally destitute and who sometimes simply have nothing to eat—one person who sent in the questionnaire wrote that he was awaiting death from starvation. Fortunately, the majority do not lose heart and try to find a way out of a difficult situation by adapting to the demands of the market.

"How do you personally react to the change in the economic situation in the country?"—the replies break down as follows (in percentages):

Try to make drastic economies	43
Looking for (found) higher-paid work	4
Found other, extra work in addition to main job	7
Retired, but intending to go out to work (already working)	24
Intend to raise qualifications, to work harder in old job	2
Devoting more attention to (started) working at home, at dacha, in rural locality	9
Engaging (intending to engage) in commerce	2
Leasing something out	1
No reaction at all, not intending to do anything	8

But, however hard it might be to adapt to new conditions, the population's attitude toward the market is, nonetheless, changing in favor of recognizing it.

"How do you regard, as a whole, the development of private enterprise in Russia?" (in percentages):

Positively	20
Partly positively, partly negatively	45
Negatively	33

The picture of the opinions painted in connection with another question in the questionnaire attests once again that an ever increasing number of people are starting to realize that there is no going back to the past.

"Which path of Russia's development in the future do you see as most correct and realistic?" (in percentages):

Russia's revival on the bases existing until 1917	5
Return to the system existing in our country during the 30's, 40's, and 50's	4
Return to the life existing in our country during the 60's, 70's, and early 80's	15
Building humane, democratic socialisim	29
Building a society modeled on developed capitalist countries (United States, FRG)	6
Combining in our society the best features of capitalism and socialism	21
We must seek our own new Russian path	24

A special part of the questionnaire was devoted to "purely internal," Moscow problems. Readers' replies to it show how hard the capital's residents are taking the state of affairs here and that they largely hold City Hall directly to blame for everything.

"Do you think life in Moscow now is better or worse than in the majority of other major Russian cities?" (in percentages):

Better	4
The same	13
Worse	75

[passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Criticizes U.S. Support for Yeltsin, Gorbachev

OW0304124093 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Report on "exclusive interview" with Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, by NHK correspondent Kazuo Kobayashi in Moscow on 3 April; Khasbulatov speaks in Russian with Japanese subtitles; processed from the Japanese]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, granted an exclusive interview to NHK correspondent Kazuo Kobayashi in Moscow on 3 April. During the interview, Mr. Khasbulatov strictly criticized the United States and other Western nations for their methods in expanding aid to Russia. Mr. Khasbulatov has adopted an aggressive stance because there were not as many calls for his resignation as he feared at the last session of the Congress of People's Deputies. He apparently has taken this fact as an indication of support. Now, he is turning his attack toward the United States as well.

[Begin recording] [Khasbulatov] The United States always talks about supporting former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin, and other individuals. Russia does not need aid for individuals, but, rather, it needs aid to support efforts for democracy, and the United States should understand this.

[Kobayashi] What kind of aid would be most beneficial to Russia?

[Khasbulatov] Russia needs technological cooperation and financial aid for specific projects. The Russian Government should improve the domestic environment to make it easier for foreign companies to invest in construction, development of natural resources, and other fields. No Russian administration has developed a plan to do this. They have merely given lip service to this idea. President Yeltsin is now violating the Constitution and destabilizing Russia. President Yeltsin is trying to overturn the country and is involved in a confrontation with the parliament. I do not know what kind of aid could possibly help a Russia which now faces such a situation. [end recording]

Mr. Khasbulatov is not among the most popular politicians in Russia. Therefore, what lies behind his aggressive stance is not his popularity but, instead, his realization that the parliament is under his control. As long as the confrontation between the president and the parliament continues, Mr. Yeltsin's efforts to obtain aid from the West may work against him. Russian politics, therefore, seem to be caught in a vicious circle.

Khasbulatov Briefs Embassy Press Attaches, Advisers

Parliament Press Center Circulates Report

LD0204193193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 2 Apr 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow April 2—The press center of the Russian Supreme Soviet circulated the following statement today:

"On 2 April, Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov held a briefing for advisers and press attaches of foreign embassies in Moscow.

"Sometimes I do not feel like objecting to publications in certain foreign mass media. There is a feeling that they simply misunderstand the processes taking place in Russia," said the Russian parliamentary speaker opening the briefing. It is the Russian parliament that began its work by initiating democratic institutions, it improved significantly the country's main law by introducing into it the principle of power sharing, he said. Understanding that human freedom is based, first and foremost, on economic freedom, most lawmakers support private property, mixed and restructured economy, and economic transformations, according to the speaker. About 700 normative acts have been adopted. Incidentally, the parliament has not rejected a single draft law proposed by the president and the government. The chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet believes the contradictions existing in Russian power structures take their root in that the permanent parliament, president, and Constitutional Court are new phenomena, which are foreign to the autocratic thinking that still exists, to a certain degree. Be that as it may, the state only becomes weaker as a result of a power struggle. "We stand for the preservation and development of democratic institutions in the country, and it is strange to hear several noted Western politicians in various situations hurry to support that (man) or another, stated Ruslan Khasbulatov. So both are thus tempted to conduct their policy by unconstitutional means." "What will the world community get if the rudimentary parliamentarianism and democracy disappear in Russia? Without a parliament, the president will not survive. And then there will be a real danger that radicals will come to power whose policy

will have tragic ramifications akin to those in Yugoslavia or North Caucasus," the speaker said.

West Supporting 'Ill-Considered Steps'

OW0204173693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov is of the opinion that Western leaders "are rushing too much to support ill-considered steps by one of the political sides in Russia." "If as a result, blood is shed," he said Friday [2 April] at a meeting with press attaches from many embassies in Moscow, "then some responsibility for this would also lie with Western countries." In conjunction with this, Khasbulatov called on Western leaders to provide constructive support for general democratic transformations in Russia, without personifying these transformations. He also appealed "not to push the president from abroad to ill-considered steps." Khasbulatov stressed that he himself "was very wary of any kind of radicals, since they choose the path of forcefully bringing happiness to the people. It is clear to everyone how this ends, in arrests." The speaker emphasized that it was all the same to him who gave the order for arrests, "it is important that this would mean the end of democratic transformations in Russia." In Khasbulatov's opinion, if the results of the referendum dissolve the congress and parliament, then the president himself would fall within a month, and then extreme forces could play out the Yugoslav option in Russia.

Notes Parliament's Reformist Nature

LD0204162493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Today, Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov held a briefing in the House of Soviets for counsellors and press attaches of foreign embassies in Moscow. He noted that it was the Russian parliament that started its work with setting up democratic institutions and improving significantly the basic law of the country by including the principle of division of power. Ruslan Khasbulatov said the majority of MPs understand that human freedom is based above all on economic freedom, and they are speaking out for economic reforms, private property, and a mixed economy. Ruslan Khasbulatov emphasized that if the embryos of parliamentarianism and democracy disappear in Russia and there is no parliament, the president of Russia will no longer be able to rule the country. Then it is quite possible that radicals will come to power whose policy will lead to tragic consequences like in Yugoslavia or the North Caucasus, Ruslan Khasbulatov said.

Western Media 'Misinterpreting' Events

LD0204155793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1526 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—Russian parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov blamed Western mass media for misinterpreting Russian developments which makes foreign politicians pledge their support to the Russian president.

"Sometimes I want to object publications is several foreign mass media. [sentence as received] There is a feeling that they simply misunderstand the processes taking place in Russia", he told advisers and press attaches of foreign embassies in Moscow on Friday, according to his press service.

It is the Russian parliament which initiated the creation of democratic institutions in the country and introduced the share-power principle into the Constitution, he said. Most lawmakers support private property, mixed and restructured economy and economic transformations, according to the speaker.

"We stand for the preservation and development of democratic institutions in the country and it is strange to hear when several noted Western politicians in various situations hurry to support that (man) or another. That and the other are thus tempted to conduct their policy by unconstitutional means", the press service quoted the speaker as saying.

Khasbulatov warned that collapse of parliamentarism in Russia may trigger a civil war. "What will the world community get if the rudimentary parliamentarism and democracy disappear in Russia? Without a parliament the president will not stay. And then there is a real danger that radicals will come to power whose policy will lead to tragic consequences according to the the Yugoslavian or North Caucasian scenario", the speaker said.

Vorinin: Monetarist Policy Cannot End Crisis

LD0204181893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1746 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—"There will be no stabilization without changes in the approach to reform implementation," First Deputy Russian Speaker Yuriy Voronin told a meeting with Russian mass media representatives today.

"As the monetarist policy is being implemented, any stabilization or way out of the crisis are out of the question," he said.

"We need a new approach to the solution of economic issues," stressed Voronin, saying the course should take into account Russian peculiarities, when 90 per cent of enterprises are state and 60 per cent of Russian territory are in the extreme North and will not enter the market for long due to their insufficient economic development. The official called for subsidizing the agrarian sector and preservation of the state order on major product types.

Voronin and newly-appointed Deputy Russian Speaker Vladimir Ispravnikov will share duties of former deputy parliament head and current First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko. The latter was in charge of economic issues in the Supreme Soviet.

Ispravnikov will oversee the economic reforms, and Voronin will be in charge of credit-monetary and budget policy and some organizational issues in the Supreme Soviet activities, including preparations of the referendum.

In this connection, Voronin called on mass media to objectively cover preparations and holding of the April referendum and abstain from stirring up confrontation, which, to his mind, may lead to disintegration of Russia.

Asked about the time of publishing the draft new Russian Constitution, Voronin said its variant has been prepared to be based on Congress-approved provisions. The publishing time is a prerogative of the Constitutional Commission, a decision on whose convocation has not been made.

Seeks Meeting With Yeltsin

OW0204174093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of Russia's parliament hope to find an appropriate time to meet with the president in order to take into account all possible situations which could arise in Russia after the referendum. This was announced Friday [2 April] at a meeting with journalists by Russian first deputy parliament chairman Yuriy Voronin. He remarked that potential ways to keep Russia from falling apart would be discussed at such a meeting.

If even two to four republics within the Federation refuse to hold the referendum, this would be a big blow to Russian unity. "We should not repeat the Soviet experience. We have to try to convince the republics to take part in the referendum," Voronin stressed.

Voronin also reported that at the meeting with the president, they would discuss potential ways of constitutionally resolving other problems which could arise for one of the sides in case of a negative result on April 25. At the same time, in Voronin's opinion, the people, tired of political events, might not come to the referendum at all.

Supreme Soviet Official Assesses Vancouver Summit

LD0304173893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Interview with Ye.A. Ambartsumov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and External Economic Ties, by announcer Nosovets; from the "Parliamentary Herald" program—recorded]

[Text] [Nosovets] Good evening. The situation in Russia is rather congested in terms of political events, and rather tense. At the time when the country is preparing for the referendum, developments that are of particular interest for Russia are taking place on the international scene. These include the work of the Paris Club, and the president's visit to Vancouver.

Yevgeniy Arshakovich, so far our parliament has not expressed any specific reaction to the president's and the government's vigorous and intense efforts on the international scene. But is it not possible to forecast the reaction to some extent?

[Ambartsumov] Yes, it is indeed possible to forecast. I believe that there will be severe criticism of this visit and its results from conservatives. Although I must say that the draft documents I have seen do seem to be quite balanced and sensible. I do not know, however, in what shape they will be adopted. But I want to say that the negative reaction will to a large degree be brought about by certain blunders and tactlessness on the part of the Americans, namely, the responses of some people from the Clinton administration, preparing for this visit, to the clash between our president and our Supreme Soviet.

First, I believe that very obvious blunders were made by Clinton and particularly by his Secretary of State, Christopher, when they said: We are backing President Yeltsin in his confrontation with the conservative parliament. Here one can immediately object. In this situation, when it concerns a statesman's visit to another country, they should not have favored one branch of power against the other. The parliament is indeed conservative, but this is what we've got. Moreover, the presidential entourage is also not free from conservative, I would say, traditional representatives of the party, of the nomenklatura. This could also be qualified as interference in internal affairs.

The second point is what a very well-known U.S. television journalist said in a conversation with Madeleine K. Albright, Clinton's Cabinet representative and U.S. ambassador to the UN Security Council. Analyzing the president's actions, the journalist asked Albright: What would you have said if the President declared that the parliament must be dissolved and the constitution changed?

Albright replied that, of course, this would not have been done, but they have a 200-year history of democracy. I would like to add to this that this should even more not be done in relation to the fragile Russian democracy which has just only begun to emerge. Such one-sided assessments are extremely indiscreet.

I can't really tell if this is the result of my recent conversation in Washington with the President's staff, in particular with Strobe Talbott, special aide and deputy Secretary of State, who is responsible for Russian affairs.

I told him that it was wrong to personalize U.S. aid and U.S. support because this will be counterproductive, even for President Yeltsin. The other day the same Strobe Talbott made a statement saying they support democratically oriented figures and politicians and the president in parliament, in the Constitutional Court, and other branches of power and public life.

This is important, I think. That is why if a recommendation is to be made to the participants of the meeting then things should be depersonalized. Of course, we are counting on the world community's support for the democratization process as a whole. There is no need to tie, underscore, this with specific individuals, although it is clear to us. I want to say frankly that although I criticized some steps taken by President Yeltsin and although I criticized his wavering, I am firmly determined to give him my vote at the referendum and to support him.

At the same time, I think that the West should refrain from imprudent characterization. I would like to say that Europe is more balanced and calmer in its characterization. At the same time I am against the approach taken by Kissinger, who says that not everything has calmed down there yet and Russia should altogether be denied support.

That is a very shortsighted and deeply erroneous position, because such absence of support can only make for chaos and anarchy. So we must remove the possible pretexts for those among our politicians who will criticize that decision. But at the same time, judging by the document that is planned to be adopted - the Vancouver Declaration, I believe it is to be called—it states, and this is very important, that this is not simply some sort of handout to Russia. Well, the aid package has not yet been decoded. But it speaks in particular of the need to open the markets. Not only the Russian market, but open markets for Russia, as well, because the trouble is that the Americans, while talking a lot about the need to stimulate market freedom, and the market economy and so on, are themselves closing their own markets to us, say, for enriched uranium. That's hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The markets, world markets, for high technology, say for our cryogenic technology which we are suppying to India, they consider this to be a violation of the anti-nuclear agreements, and so forth; although, in fact, there is no such violation, the international experts have not reached any such conclusion. In short, it is indeed necessary that Russia's interests should be respected, and that includes this meeting in Vancouver.

[Nosovets] This is a situation to which our voters have certainly paid attention, and more than once. It is rather interesting that in our parliament—you have a better picture of this than anyone—the deputies are glad to go off on various official trips, visits to other parliaments as members of official delegations; but when they come back, practically anything that—I'm speaking of deputies of a certain orientation—practically anything that, say, our Foreign Ministry or president does at the external political level is subjected not just to criticism, but literally to obstructionism: demands for the removal of Kozyrev; demands for a change of policy; some of them even go so far as to indulge in what seem to me simply insulting statements, that Russia is being sold down the river, that her interests are being sold off, and so on. What is it like for you, as head of the committee, to be working in such conditions?

[Ambartsumov] I have to say that in general our committee was the first to begin serious criticism at parliamentary level of certain Foreign Ministry decisions which I still consider wrong: say, unconditional support of one-sided sanctions against Serbia, whereas Croatia has also done similar things and, in that sense, with impunity. But many aspects of Foreign Ministry policy have been put right; and I don't think, I don't agree with those of my colleagues who insist that the committe's work be concentrated on removing Kozyrev.

The president appointed Kozyrev foreign minister and I respect the will of the president and I cooperate with him and will continue to cooperate with whoever occupies that post. But of course that does not exclude possible mistakes. For example, there was a mistake which we are all paying for today, namely the hasty recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which had never previously existed as a state. The intiators of this, in Germany and the United States, thought it was a way of averting war, but just the opposite happened: it caused the war. But now we have to reckon with the situation as it is.

It has to be said that the people at the Foreign Ministry, notably Deputy Minister Churkin, have done a great deal to correct what has been awry with UN decisions. But of course we are not alone there, and we have to seek compromise.

By the way, to unblock the situation in Yugoslavia, our Supreme Soviet—the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet—intends to send there, to all the republics of Yugoslavia, not just to Serbia, but also to Croatia and Bosnia, a group of deputies, a delegation, well, in the case of Croatia it will be an official delegation, a working delegation, and to the other republics it will be an investigating commission, to study the situation and do whatever can be done to promote a peaceful settlement. In other words, I think our parliament has successfully involved itself in that situation, that development. It is helping the Foreign Ministry in its constructive work. By the way, the Foreign Ministry, including Kozyrev, has expressed a positive view of our activities.

I once said in the Supreme Soviet that one should not treat Minister Kozyrev as a Carthage that absolutely must be destroyed. He has made mistakes, true, and probably will make them again. I must say, however, that at our Supreme Soviet he is rather imperturbable. His speeches are not always successful, but his most recent one was, in my opinion, excellent. He showed his great professionalism.

I would say, incidentally, that our deputies often make the mistake of ignoring the help of the Foreign Ministry. It does not mean that they have to follow the advice of our ambassadors or embassies, for example. However, this must be taken into account. because rather often it happens that they go abroad, and they claim to be or are perceived to be an official delegation of the Supreme Soviet, which is not true. Or a deputy is perceived as a spokesman of Russia's statehood, whereas he sometimes is there to sort out his own commercial operations. I don't think that this should be authorized. We are the first parliament, and, of course, we are clumsy, in a way. However, we are a parliament and a lobby at the same time, something which would be incompatible in a normal parliament.

However, we are just taking our first steps. Therefore, I believe that we should nevertheless strive to achieve cooperation between deputies and the Foreign Ministry, even if we do have conflicts.

On the other hand, I can say firmly that the professional level of our diplomats is in no way lower and often higher than that of developed countries: we may be proud of these professionals. There is an easy explanation for this: our people are no less able than others, but other activities where they could apply their abilities simply did not exist. So, those with an gift for this kind of activity found their place in state structures, such as the Foreign Ministry. On the other hand, one should not underestimate the role of deputies, because they are extremely active, they have closer links with the electorate, they often make sensible suggestions, as it were, and even when they criticize the Foreign Ministry, they promote our foreign economic activity by their criticism.

The Foreign Ministry may say to partners: We could agree with you, but the Supreme Soviet will not allow this, for example. In this sense, I believe that we are lucky to have the Supreme Soviet as a stimulus, on the one hand, and a limiter, on the other: it channels the work of the Foreign Ministry in a certain direction. On the whole, I believe this work to be productive.

[Nosovets] On the other hand, I believe that certain things cannot be ignored: such as, for example, deputies' speeches in official organizations, for example the European Council in Strasbourg. We have highlighted such addresses already, for example Baburin's speech, or Deputy Rybkin's speech - they are both leaders of pro-communist factions, who address the European Parliament, or rather the European Council, as if they were speaking the most incontrovertible truth, yet merely denigrating their own country. At the same time, they accuse Kozyrev of doing the same thing.

[Ambartsumov] I can't agree with these examples. I myself am the head of the Russian Federation delegation in the Council of Europe, not the European Council, but the Council of Europe. I was there when Baburin and Rybkin spoke. I strongly disagree with their political convictions, we are people of different faiths. I must say, however, that both Baburin and Rybkin rather successfully defended Russia's national and state interests, and Russia's dominant view on, let us say, the Yugoslav conflict and other problems. Their address was not of a provocative nature. I am against labelling deputies, or their opinions, for example deputies belonging to democratic factions, or let us say, to one wing of the parliament; by the same token just because there is such a man as Baburin who speaks against the president—neither Rybkin nor Baburin touched upon this problem, by the way—they should not be labeled from the start just because they are the way they are. So, here I would like to correct you, because I know this speech and this assessment is incorrect.

Chubays Criticizes 'Biased' Privatization View

LD0204135593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—Russian privatisation supremo and Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays criticised the parliament on Friday for biased and unobjective assessment of his work as head of the State Property Managing Committee.

The draft resolution of the parliament on privatisation process in Russia "does not reflect the true state of affairs" and sometimes "does not correspond to reality", he told legislators.

The resolution does not even mention that for the first time in the Russian history 50,000 enterprises became private ventures and hundreds of thousands of Russians private owners, while 17 million workers are shareholders now, Chubays recalled, adding that nothing of the kind had ever happened in the country.

The privatisation supremo said he understands that some lawmakers do not like that state property is becoming private. "But if deputies want to be objective they should have the courage to state what has been done", Chubays stressed, adding that the only positive phrase about his work says that "privatisation process began in 1992".

"We consider a critical approach to the work of the State Property Managing Committee as normal and natural, but we also believe it necessary that any assessments which appear in the documents of the Supreme Soviet are logically connected with the documents themself", he added.

Deputies Refer Yeltsin Decrees to Court

PM0504091593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Report by parliamentary observer Aleksey Vorobyev: "No Need To Confirm Congress Decisions"]

[Text] The joint session of the Supreme Soviet chambers on Thursday 1 April began in businesslike fashion. Within minutes the deputies, under the chairmanship of Yuriy Voronin, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, discussed the question of referring certain Russian presidential edicts for examination by the Constitutional Court.

It was decided to refer for expert examination by the constitutional judges the presidential decrees "On the Activity of Executive Organs To Overcome the Crisis of Power" (of 20 March 1993), "On the Russian Federation President's Representatives in Krays, Oblasts, the Autonomous Oblast, Autonomous Okrugs, and the Cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg" (of 5 February 1993), and "On Reforming Military Structures, Border Guards, and Internal Troops on the Territory of the Russian Federation's North Caucasus Region, and Providing State Support for the Cossacks" (of 15 March 1993).

The Supreme Soviet decree "On Measures To Improve Payment for the Products and Services of Municipal Power Generation, Water, and Sewerage Enterprises" was then adopted.

Point three on the agenda was the Russian Federation draft law "On Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Law 'On RSFSR Referendums.'" Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of parliament, who submitted the draft, explained to those present that it is a question of reaffirming the right of the Congress of People's Deputies to set the timetable for the referendum and to publish the questions to be submitted to it, as well as its right to determine the means of calculating the number of votes needed to legalize the nationwide plebiscite.

It was on this point that a very heated debate broke out. It was largely a continuation of the arguments at the Congress. Three main views of the problem emerged relatively quickly. Representatives of democratic factions believed that the authors of the draft were continuing to violate the constitution by interpreting the Law on Referendums to fit the Ninth Congress edicts so as to either deliberately wreck the nationwide plebiscite or to deprive the people of an opportunity to express their confidence in the president and call for new elections for people's deputies—since the system for counting votes established by the Congress is absolutely unfair, in the opinion of democratically minded deputies.

N. Ryabov, who holds a different view, answered his opponents thoroughly and in detail. He noted that the democrat-controlled mass media are reporting very high ratings for the president and giving very high percentages for those wanting to participate in the vote. It is therefore totally incomprehensible why democrats should be so very concerned about the fate of democracy and of B. Yeltsin himself. After all, if certain widely publicized sociological surveys are to be believed, the president should win the vote with an overwhelming majority.

Bringing the law on referendums into line with the decisions of the Ninth Congress was the justification used for submitting this draft to the session.

After being debated the decree was passed.

Presidium Reportedly To Appeal to Bosnian Serbs

OW0304165293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The presidium of the Russian parliament is shortly going to appeal to the Bosnian Serbs to immediately sign the Vance-Owen plan for the settlement of the Yugoslav conflict. A senior official at the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax Moscow's position on the plan remained unchanged, Russia believing there was no alternative to it. "The Serbs are driving themselves into an impasse and setting the entire international community against themselves," he said.

The official said the trip of the Russian president's special envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin, to Bosnia-Herzegovina and his meeting with the Bosnian Serb leadership had practically been fruitless. "The Bosnian Serbs are stubbornly refusing to agree to the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina into 10 semi-autonomous provinces," he said. If the Bosnian Serbs refused to sign the plan, the United Nations Security Council might well lift its embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian Moslems, who, as the Bosnian Croats, had signed the plan. Russia could hardly object to that, he said. The solution of the problem depended on the Bosnian Serbs themselves, he summed up.

Draft Law Limits Moscow Street Meetings, Rallies

OW0304133393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1310 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament on Friday [2 April] passed at the second reading the draft law on the status of Moscow. The law specifies the powers, rights, and duties of federal and city authorities concerning measures to be taken to ensure the city's functioning as capital of Russia, as well as the assistance to be given for this purpose by the authorities of Moscow Region. The city and regional authorities will be paid compensation for any expenses this may involve.

There is a clause laying down regulations for street meetings, rallies, processions, demonstrations, and pickets in the city, none of which are allowed to be held in areas around buildings housing supreme legislative, executive, or judicial bodies of the Russian Federation. Such areas will be delineated by the Supreme Soviet with the consent of those bodies themselves and the Moscow authorities.

Under the law, Moscow's statute is to approved by the city council of people's deputies after it has been endorsed by the Supreme Soviet and president of Russia. The statute will, in particular, formalize the administrative territorial division of Moscow.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Visits Magadan on Way to Vancouver Summit

Comments on Dismissals, Ninth Congress

LD0304082193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Magadan, 3 Apr—The dismissal of a number of leaders from the Siberian and Far East regions is not connected with a change in policy on cadres or a persecution of cadres, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated today during meetings with residents of Magadan. He emphasized that executive authority in the regions is actively supporting him.

Boris Yeltsin reported that Sakhalin Governor Valentin Fedorov had himself requested to be relieved of his post and that he was being moved to Moscow to work in one of the ministries. As for Arkadiy Veprev, head of the Krasnoyarsk Kray administration, his resignation request was agreed to on account of his venerable age and his state of health.

Asked about his morale after the Ninth Congress of People's Deputies, Boris Yeltsin noted that "if a normal person was placed in the congress and criticized the way that I was, then he would die by the end of the day."

On the same day the Russian president visited the Ust-Magadanskiy fish-processing factory and a border detachment, where he acquainted himself with the conditions of service and the lives of the border guards.

In the evening Boris Yeltsin met oblast and town leaders. Although the media was not invited to attend this meeting, ITAR-TASS correspondents learned that issues connected with tightening up migration processes had been touched on. Last year alone about 50,000 people left the oblast. The difficult situation in the region also has to do with financing from budget resources. One of the main problems worrying the local population is uncontrolled fishing by foreign fishing vessels. The oblast administration has concluded that if the destruction of fish resources continues at the present rate, then within the next two or three years the stocks of walleye pollock [mintay] will be severely damaged, leading to catches falling from a level of 1 million tonnes a year to 100,000-300,000 tonnes a year. Experts believe that this could provoke an economic crisis in the fishing industry of the Far Eastern region and a reduction in deliveries of foodstuffs for the internal market.

Before leaving Magadan for the Canadian town of Vancouver where he is to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton, the Russian president will hold a news conference for local journalists.

Cited on Savings, Energy Prices

LD0304085593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Boris Yeltsin plans to issue a decree on indexing personal savings as of 1 January 1992. As the RIA agency reports, the Russian president made this statement today at his meeting with workers at the Magadan fish-processing factory.

As has been reported earlier, Boris Yeltsin's stopover on the way to Vancouver was planned in advance. The Russian president has noted that the Russian people have to be sure that their savings are not wiped out by inflation. As an illustration of this, Boris Yeltsin gave the following example: A person having 10,000 rubles [R] in his savings account on 1 January 1992 will be paid a sum of R150,000 over five years as a result of indexation.

According to the agency report, on the same day Boris Yeltsin visited the Magadan border guards unit. During a meeting he announced, among other things, that he has made a decision to suspend price surcharges for fuel and energy carriers imposed on wholesale buyers. The president voiced the assurance that there will be no increase in fuel prices in the nearest future.

Servicemen's Salaries To Increase

LD0304102293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] There will be a new rise in servicemen's pay in April-May, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said at his meeting with commanding officers of the Magadan border guards unit, about which we have already reported. The RIA agency quotes the Russian president as saying he came to conclusion that there is a need to once again increase servicemen's pay after his meetings with the border guard officers.

Yeltsin Gives News Conference

LD0304133493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1225 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Magadan, 3 Apr—The problems facing Magadan residents are really serious but they can be solved, Boris Yeltsin said at a news briefing after a conference in the office of the Magadan Oblast administration head. Among the matters discussed were issues relating to granting a 10-billion-ruble [R] credit for supplying foodstuffs in the spring and summer period, allocating funds to expand the production of silver, encouraging highly

qualified specialists who have moved from Magadan Oblast to come back, and providing assistance to geologists. It was decided to earmark means to build a monument designed by Ernst Neizvestnyy to the people killed during the repressions. The president said that it was a morally superior act on the part of Magadan residents to compile lists of those who died and publish them in the papers.

Boris Yeltsin reported that the local fish-processing factory, where people have not received their wages for three months, will be allocated a credit worth R4 billion as soon as he returns to Moscow. "And regarding the Sea of Okhotsk," the president said, "we will find a solution so that no one can act irresponsibly and we can preserve your mintay [fish]."

After his news conference the president met with residents of the town, who filled the square in front of the oblast executive committee building. Addressing the assembled people, Boris Yeltsin said: "Productivity in Magadan has fallen by 5.6 percent, which is three times less than throughout the rest of the country. This means that during this difficult period the people of Magadan are working three times harder than everyone else."

The people of Magadan wished the president a warm farewell and wished him success in his upcoming meeting in Vancouver.

Grachev in Archangelsk To Discuss Submarine Building

LD0204130793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0932 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Archangelsk, 2 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, arrived today in Severodvinsk, the state center for nuclear shipbuilding. The defense minister informed journalists upon his arrival that his visit to the Archangelsk north is a working one. In particular, he plans to visit the defense shipyards to discuss prospects of submarine construction. Pavel Grachev is expected to leave today for the Plesetsk-2 cosmodrome.

Severodvinsk To Receive 'Large' Orders

LD0204164993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Severodvinsk, the Archangel region, April 2 TASS—"The Severodvinsk northern machine-building plant will receive large orders for construction of warships and subs," Russian Defence Minister Army General Pavel Grachev told correspondents at the plant today.

Under a Russian president decree, a state nuclear shipbuilding center will be set up in Severodvinsk to make the plant the monopoly producer of nuclear-powered warships and submarines.

The Defence Ministry will also give the plant large ship repairing orders, including possible repairs of five heavy aircraft carriers from the Russian Navy.

Still, there is plenty of problems in the military shipbuilding. The most difficult one is financing of the orders, which can be solved by the president, the government and the Supreme Soviet, stressed the official.

"I think after my trip I will prove the repairs and construction of ships must be financed on a large scale if we want to have a powerful fleet," said Pavel Grachev. The minister left for Plesetsk on the same day.

Attends Satellite Launch in Plesetsk

LD0204161693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 2 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev watched on Friday [2 April] the launching of the "Kosmos-2240" satellite intended for military purposes.

The satellite was launched by a "Soyuz" booster from the Russian Plesetsk Cosmodrome, the press centre of the Russian Aerospace Forces said.

Grachev Meets With Chernomyrdin While in St. Petersburg

MK0204131693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Apr 93 p 10

[Vladimir Makartsev report: "Grachev Inspects Military Facilities. Army Tries To Influence Neighboring Countries"]

[Text] As promised in yesterday's issue, KOMMERSANT-DAILY today provides readers with detailed material on Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's visit to Leningrad Military District.

According to a KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent's data, the defense minister's trip to Severodvinsk and Plesetsk was postponed owing to yesterday's arrival in St. Petersburg of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, with whom Grachev jointly held a meeting in the district's House of Officers with the region's leaders and the commands of Leningrad Military District and Leningrad Naval Base. The meeting was held behind closed doors but it was learned that the defense minister briefed the local authority representatives on the state of affairs among the district's troops and the results of inspections. Grachev also met with Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak.

In the opinion of observers, the simultaneous appearance of the Russian Council of Ministers and Defense Ministry leaderships in Leningrad Military District cannot be considered an accident. By Grachev's own admission this district is becoming a first strategic echelon district. The minister let it be clearly known that the greatest claims against the Russian Armed Forces were made in Brussels by Ukraine and Estonia. These are the very same countries that are close to Leningrad Military District. The matter is aggravated by the fact that Ukraine is still a nuclear power, which, according to Grachev, "does not preclude a second or third Chernobyl." Estonia, meanwhile, is making territorial claims on parts of Pskov and Leningrad Oblasts.

Speaking at the House of Officers meeting, the defense minister noted that the countries participating in the session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council gave a positive assessment of the Russian Armed Forces' politically neutral stance in the recent constitutional crisis. According to specialists' assessments, however, the repeated statements of both the minister himself and the Russian Defense Ministry regarding strict neutrality in political affairs could be called into question following Grachev's statement on slowing down the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic region until the Estonian and Latvian defense ministers sit down at the negotiating table with him.

Bearing in mind that this statement by Grachev was voiced in an international forum and that it talks about concluding bilateral—that is, international—agreements and solving financial and social problems concerning the Russian troop withdrawal, it can be assumed that this was done with a certain degree of political calculation.

While the Army has so far managed to preserve at least the appearance of neutrality in relation to the internal political situation in Russia, in the foreign policy sphere the Russian military is, by all accounts, starting to exert pressure not only on Western countries but also on former USSR republics. True, so far fortunately only by political means, which for some reason have proved insufficiently effective in the hands of Russian Foreign Ministry representatives.

Further on Chernomyrdin Visit to St. Petersburg

Cited on Economic Difficulties

LD0204225593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Today, on the second day of his visit to St. Petersburg, Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, held a news conference and replied to numerous questions from journalists.

In particular, he said:

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] Some of these concrete measures have been already implemented by decrees that have been issued. First of all, the decrees on wages and indexation of deposits. We have reconsidered them yet again to clarify, that is, we have already released part of the document.

Concrete issues are under discussion now, taking into consideration a complicated situation evolving in the Russian Federation, in Russia as a whole, in the country.

What is the problem today, what are the difficulties? First of all, payments. This issue is of burning concern to any collective and every enterprise. We met managers of all St. Petersburg enterprises here yesterday. And it was one of the most important issues.

Credits and crediting. Credits to whom? What credits? And how to grant credits? And who grants credits? Who regulates them? On what foundations? And with what interest? It is a whole range of questions. In the long run, the government should answer these questions. This should be decided in the first and second quarters. Enough of talking.

What (?gives rise to our concern) at present? First of all, all the talk and uncertainty, a lack of concrete things. We have stopped analyzing how we have survived, for example, a month, a quarter, six months. We only spread our hands: oh, we have fallen, oh, it has been reduced! Do we feel better after it? Therefore, we say that we are not trying to go away from market levers; on the contrary, the whole national economy should be switched to market conditions, but it should be done in a civilized way. We are talking here about our plans for this year, about comparing positions, and checking ourselves once again: what are we doing, are we doing the right thing, what needs to be done, what should be corrected? And the role of St. Petersburg, Leningrad oblast, and Moscow in this has a strong affect on the whole of Russia. [end recording]

[Ruvinskiy] I think, now the program of our government is clear to Mayak radio listeners.

Second Day of Visit Summarized

LD0204191493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Today is the second day of the visit of Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, Russian prime minister and chairman of the Council of Ministers, in St. Petersburg. This is what our correspondent Matvey Frolov reports:

[Frolov] The day began in Smolnyy, where representatives of the legislative and executive powers, heads of the city and oblast, and leaders of the city and oblast rayons had gathered. Every participant of the meeting had their own questions to ask and proposals to which the head of the government listened with interest and attention. Much time was spent on discussing taxation issues and the problems connected with them. Not everything is clear yet in this aspect; contradictions exist. Viktor Stepanovich promised to sort out the actual situation with taxation—in particular, in St. Petersburg and in

Leningrad Oblast—and the problems of the agriculture sector, the possibilities of private farming, and the need at this stage to prevent the breakup of existing and well-functioning agricultural structures. Viktor Stepanovich revealed that the shipyards in St. Petersburg will build vessels for the transport sector, for the fishing industry, and other types of ships for civil purposes and that there is a need to build new ports in the Gulf of Finland region.

A meeting and talks between a delegation of the Russian Federation led by Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, and the Lithuanian delegation led by Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius took place at a residence on the Kamennyy Ostrov. Future relations between the two countries, the supply of fuel and other goods from Russia, transit problems, and many other issues were discussed. Consultations between the two delegations will continue.

Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin replied to numerous questions put to him by the journalists during a press conference. They were about the most acute political and economic problems of the privatization process, the preparation for the spring sowing season, and, of course, about the role of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast in the resolving of the main economic problems in the Russian Federation.

Last of all, at the end of the day, in the evening, Viktor Stepanovich paid a visit to the Telman state farm in Leningrad Oblast. This is yet another evidence of the attention that the government is now paying to the problems in agriculture.

This is how Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, ended today's part of his visit to St. Petersburg.

Warns of 'Firm,' 'Unpopular' Actions

OW0204182693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1808 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia said at a news conference in St. Petersburg Friday [2 April] that "the government's economic course will be firm and the methods, unpopular." The head of government believes that improving the financial and crediting system is the top priority. In particular, the problems of payments must be resolved and a procedure for granting credits worked out.

He reemphasized that "privatization must be carried out in an intelligent way to avoid doing harm." In his words, numerous businesses, working teams, and individuals criticize privatization legislation. On the other hand, he doubted that "anybody knows how to carry out privatization, including those who are carrying it out. They are looking for the best ways of doing it." On the other hand, Chernomyrdin made it plain that even though the State Property Committee and Anatoliy Chubays, its chairman, come under criticism, he (Chernomyrdin) has never intended to change the leadership of that committee.

On agricultural matters, Chernomyrdin said that "not everything was prepared last fall and we should make up for it now by successfully carrying out the sowing campaign. We will not be forgiven for missing the opportunity to do what is essential." He also said that the government took away funds from the manufacturing industries and transferred them to agriculture so as to subsidize fuels and fertilizers, farm needs.

Budget Allocation of 400 Billion Rubles

LD0204222093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The local authorities in St. Petersburg were expecting Viktor Chernomyrdin to allocate subsidies for the oblast's agriculture. The prime minister's agreement was obtained. He stated that the chairman of Russia's Central Bank had already been instructed as soon as possible to allocate 400 billion rubles to the oblast's budget and subsidies for fuel, animal husbandry, horticulture, and agricultural chemistry.

Viktor Chernomyrdin had a meeting in St. Petersburg today with Slezevicius, the Lithuanian prime minister, who arrived there. The heads of government discussed a free trade agreement between the two countries and also matters concerning oil and gas deliveries to Lithuania.

Comments on Reform Assessed

PM0504102393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Irina Demchenko report: "Viktor Chernomyrdin Recalls Gosplan And Once Again Promises To Correct Reforms"]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin made a number of statements during his visit to St. Petersburg that indicate possible major corrections [korrektivy] to government policy. In particular, he assessed as mistaken the total abandonment of centralized planning and resource allocation and compared what is happening in Russia today with the period that preceded the breakup of the Union. In Chernomyrdin's opinion, we still need the State Planning Commitee [Gosplan] and the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply [Gossnab], but "in a somewhat different form."

ITAR-TASS reports that during his meeting with the leaders of the city's major industrial enterprises Viktor Chernomyrdin said that reforms are of course necessary, but that the emergent economic transformations require considerable corrections since a great deal was not taken into consideration when embarking on major changes in 1992. The "government intends to bring a great deal into line in Russia" without changing the essence of and

abandoning the reforms. "Admittedly, a solution that suits everyone should not be expected."

The prime minister said that it has already been decided to single out priority areas that will be placed under state control and regulated by the state. These are the fuel and energy complex, food, conversion sectors, science, and the social sphere. The others must adapt to the market. The participants in this meeting attest that Chernomyrdin said nothing about the future of enterprises that have already been privatized in those sectors to be placed under state control.

"The whole trouble is," ITAR-TASS quotes him as saying, "that the laws by which we now live essentially do not meet the requirements of our life." In the prime minister's opinion, the laws on the state enterprise and privatization dealt a particularly crushing blow to industry. He asked the participants in the meeting to submit their proposals regarding changes and corrections to these laws and expressed his dissatisfaction with the work of Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays. At another meeting he stressed that he is in favor of privatization, but "opposed to privatization madness."

If you look at Viktor Chernomyrdin's statements in St. Petersburg without making allowances for oratorical devices, he may evidently be considered the first Russian official to have answered one of the questions in the coming referendum—regarding his attitude to the socioeconomic policy implemented by the government and the president since 1992. Despite the fact that the prime minister has in his speeches repeatedly underlined the need to change and even considerably correct the reform course, in his more than three months in office he has never issued a substantive statement regarding his future plans. What is more, unlike Ye. Gaydar, who was asked what he intended to do virtually every month, these questions have not been put to V. Chernomyrdin since his first press conference.

The visit to St. Petersburg is of particular significance in this respect: At Pulkovo Airport Russian Federation Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov, accompanying Chernomyrdin, told journalists that the trip aimed to "correct the government's policy... There are certain ideas [narabotki] that need to be checked out on the spot." During his conversation with the city's leaders the prime minister frequently emphasized that St. Petersburg's problems reflect problems throughout Russia and they must be tackled as a whole. At the same meeting he said that a government edict or decree on St. Petersburg must be adopted and promised the city authorities he will tackle questions of providing the city with flour and vegetable oil and allocating subsidies for grain so as to prevent price hikes. This approach is evidently one of the "ideas" and will be employed with regard to all the sectors liable to state regulation—if St. Petersburg is chosen as a mini-model for the all-Russian correction of reform. In that case Chernomyrdin's nostalgia for Gosplan and Gossnab will indeed have paid off.

It is admittedly hard to imagine that the attempt by the federal executive branch to revert to centralized allocation of resources and regulation of these sectors' work will have any effect other than causing a small ripple in the government building on Staraya Square. The leaders of the regions, who have themselves begun to experience a taste for administration and distribution, will hardly want that kind of help from the center. Their demands (including the demands of the St. Petersburg government, which has issued the prime minister with several invitations) boil down exclusively to the allocation of preferential loans and subsidies, but by no means to interference in their day-to-day economic activity.

The prime minister's increasingly definite dissatisfaction with the course of privatization may have considerably more unpleasant consequences for the socioeconomic and even the political situation in the country. Financial questions are ultimately a trite game between the regions and the masters of the federal budget, but literally everyone is concerned by the question of the legitimacy and fairness of the division of state property, even in the current atmosphere of universal suspicion.

Leaves for Moscow

LD0304101693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] St. Petersburg, 3 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, has ended his visit to St.Petersburg. This morning he visited the State Hermitage (museum) and the museum-apartment of Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin, and acquainted himself with the progress of restoration work on the cathedral. Then Viktor Chernomyrdin left for Moscow.

At Pulkovo Airport he was seen off by Anatoliy Sobchak, mayor of the city on the Neva, Aleksandr Belyakov, head of the Leningrad Oblast administration, and other leaders of the executive and legislative organs of power.

Lithuanian Group in St. Petersburg for Talks

LD0204143293 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] ELTA correspondent Jonas Bogdanskis reports from St. Petersburg: A Lithuanian government delegation led by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius arrived by air in St. Petersburg today. The delegation will hold talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

The delegation, which will conduct negotiations on trade and economic cooperation and other issues of mutual interest, includes Romualdas Kozyrovicius, Lithuanian ambassador to the Russian Federation; Algimantas Vladas Stasiukynas,the minister of power engineering; deputy ministers of foreign affairs, trade, and industry; Bronilsovas Lubys, the chairman of the Confederation of Industrialists; and other officials.

Six months have elapsed since the last meeting of the Lithuanian and Russian leaders, when an agreement on trade and economic cooperation was signed. However, there have been many unsolved issues in implementing mutual obligations.

During these negotiations the Lithuanian prime minister intends to discuss the settlement of accounts, which is very important to both sides. We owe Russia almost 20 billion rubles for natural gas, but Russia's debts to Lithuania are much higher. Lithuania is owed 19.2 billion rubles for railway transit; 3.7 billion for electric power supplied to Kaliningrad oblast; and 1.6 billion for the transit of gas and oil to that oblast.

The first negotiations to take place were with the leaders of the Russian concern Lentransgaz. Lentransgaz has warned that if by 1 April Lithuania does not pay its debt for gas, its supply may be reduced by half. This issue was discussed during the talks. The Lithuanian negotiators proposed to cover the debt for gas by Russia's debt to Lithuania for transit and electric power. This would be very simple, but this proposal was not acceptable to the partners in the negotiations because Lentransgaz, according to them, functions as an independent economic unit and concludes only direct agreements. Therefore the settlement of accounts should be direct. It was agreed, however, that the Lithuanian Government will within approximately two weeks settle accounts with its debtors in Russia and from the returned debts will be able to square its accounts with the suppliers of gas. Therefore the supply of gas should not be stopped until the middle of April. This issue was also discussed with Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers.

Meets With Chernomyrdin

LD0204162593 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] I just received a report by ELTA special correspondent Jonas Bogdanskis about negotiations with Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers.

From the Lithuanian side, the talks were attended by Romualdas Kozyrovicius, the ambassador in the Russian Federation; Algimantas Vladas Stasiukynas, the minister of power engineering; representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and trade and industry; Bronislovas Lubys, ex-prime minister and president of the confederation of industrialists; and other officials.

From the Russian side: Georgiy Khizha and Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers; Viktor Gerashchenko, the chairman of the Russian Central Bank; Vitaliy Yefimov, the minister of transport; Anatoliy Sobchak, the St. Peterburg mayor; and other officials.

The negotiations lasted for about two hours. After the negotiations, the Russian prime minister told Panorama correspondents that he was very satisfied with the results of the meeting. He said: There are problems in our relations, but there are no unsolvable ones. Essentially we agreed on this year's trade and economic cooperation, which is based on the principles of free trade.

This agreement will be signed within the next few days, when experts from both sides will finally coordinate the prices of settling transport transit [words indistinct] and some other technical issues, he said.

Asked about his opinion on the statement by the Russian minister of defense on the suspension of the troop withdrawals from the Baltic states, Viktor Chernomyrdin said that he has not met Grachev and had not spoken to him about this, but what Grachev has said is the official position of the Russian Government. At the same time, I wish to tell to the Lithuanian people, said the head of the Russian Government, that there is no talk about a halt to the troop pullout, but only about a suspension. This is linked to the problems of the deployment of the army and with social issues. I would like the Lithuanian leadership to correctly understand us, said the Russian prime minister.

The St. Peterburg talks are essentially positively assessed by Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius. He stressed that the negotiations were taking place in a benevolent atmosphere. It is important that our positions on the settlement of accounts on the supply of gas have come closer. After the final regulating of the agreements on free trade, Russia, it seems, will satisfy our required quota of 1.5 million tonnes of oil. An agreement was reached on the opening of a Lithuanian consulate in St. Petersburg.

Today the Lithuanian delegation is returning to Vilnius.

Lithuanian Premier Cited on Talks

OW0204211493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1920 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [2 April] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin negotiated with his Lithuanian colleague Adolfas Slezevicius. Commenting on results of the negotiations at a press conference, Chernomyrdin underlined that Russia's relations with Lithuania are forming much nicer than with other Baltic states.

The parties discussed the issues concerning withdrawal of the Russian troops, transit to the Kaliningrad province via Lithuania, introduction of Lithuanian national currency, and difficulties caused by the fact that branches of monopolist enterprises, the production from which is needed in Russia, have remained on Lithuania's territory. The Russian Premier expressed his satisfaction with the results of their conversation.

Before his departure from St. Petersburg, the Lithuanian Prime Minister reported to journalists that the parties failed to sign an agreement on free trade between the two

countries, at the negotiations, because one item on the agreement is still in need of correction. Nevertheless, Slezevicius hopes that the agreement will be signed next week.

Another disputable item concerns the problem of re-export, including illegal re-export due to which Russia is suffering major losses. In Slezevicius' words, Russia insisted on tough wording, specifically on fixing the right to suspend implementation of the agreement as a whole in case illegal re-export via Lithuania or from Lithuania is continued. Vilnius requested that the provision be confined to "only a definite group of goods." Slezevicius believes that an agreement on free trade can solve the problem of fuel deliveries from the Russian Federation to Lithuania. The parties agreed that the former agreement stipulating that in 1993 Russia fulfill a quota totalling 1.5 Mn [million] tons of oil to Lithuania will be carried out.

Accounts for gas present more difficulties. Lithuania's debt exceeds $40 Mn. The negotiations in St. Petersburg discussed the variants envisaging compensation at the expense of the Russian debtors, in particular, the railway department, which has a debt for transit shipments to the Kaliningrad province and Belarus.

The Lithuanian Premier also reported that the parties had solved the issue on mutual accounts between Lithuania and Russia, they are to be settled in rubles, third countries' currencies, and litases.

Lithuania's Prime Minister emphasized that he does not connect the trade agreement with the problem of the Russian forces withdrawal, but declared about the firm position of the Lithuanian leadership with respect to the schedule of troop withdrawal.

St. Petersburg Soviet Votes on Referendum Issues

PM0504083993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Report by correspondent Yuriy Kukanov: "Referendum. What Russia Thinks"]

[Text] **St. Petersburg: Rehearsal in the Mariinskiy Palace**

The first people to answer the questions in the coming referendum have been deputies to the St. Petersburg City Soviet. The fact is that the Mariinskiy Palace can in no way determine its attitude to the political situation in Russia. Fifteen draft decisions were submitted for debate at the extraordinary session that opened 29 March. And when none of them was adopted even as a basis for discussion, City Soviet Chairman Aleksandr Belyayev persuaded the deputies to vote on the questions submitted for the 25 April referendum by the Extraordinary Ninth Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

The vote of confidence in the president resulted in 103 deputies voting for the president, 59 voting against, and 26 abstaining. The support for the president's reform policy was 120, 33, and 31 respectively. The voting for early presidential elections went 77, 92, and 29. The voting for early elections for Russian people's deputies went 175, 15, and 13.

The local parliamentarians got so carried away with the procedure that they put to their own "deputies' referendum" the questions of confidence in the Congress of People's Deputies, new elections for the mayor of St. Petersburg and the city soviet, and the formation of a constitutional assembly to adopt a new fundamental law for the country. If you bear in mind that the quorum for the adoption of decisions was 137 votes, the majority in the Mariinskiy Palace advocated early elections for Russian people's deputies, the city soviet, and the mayor, and also for a constitutional assembly. The Mariinskiy Palace does not trust either the Congress or the president and his reform policy. Neither, however, is it advocating early elections for the head of the country's executive.

That was the position taken by the local representative authority in the course of a kind of rehearsal for the referendum in the Mariinskiy Palace. As for voters, according to figures from the St. Petersburg Sociological Scientific Research Center, which polled 1,068 citizens 24-25 March, 80 percent of respondents support the idea of holding a nationwide vote of confidence in the Russian president. Some 78 percent of those polled stated their intention to turn out to vote.

Russia's Communists have begun a campaign to collect 1 million signatures to have the referendum include the question "Are you in favor of the Soviet Constitution, which guarantees the power of the working people, the right to work, low prices, free health care and education, a dignified old age, and housing available to all?" Announcing this, Viktor Tyulkin, a member of the Russian Communist Workers Party Central Committee, stated that voters should say "yes" or "no" to Soviet power and socialism in the referendum.

St. Petersburg's entrepreneurs, who support the president, have set up a fund to finance the 25 April referendum. They stressed at a press conference that businessmen are not after publicity and are not planning to engage in a propaganda campaign, but will allocate funds for the printing of leaflets, the acquisition of voting booths and equipment for polling places, and other expenses relating to the organization of the referendum.

The St. Petersburg entrepreneurs propose that the government channel the budgetary funds thus saved into specific programs of social support for the population. The entrepreneurs stated that they do not support any specific figure but presidential power as the guarantee of the state's stability. In their opinion the next Russian president should be someone with a market- rather than obkom-oriented past.

Some 26 commercial structures in St. Petersburg have already donated 80 million rubles to the referendum fund.

Demonstrations Outside St. Petersburg TV Center Reported

LD0304050393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Protests outside the St, Petersburg TV center are continuing. With the details, here is Sergey Velinskiy.

[Velinskiy] The most ardent supporters of the 600 Seconds program, which as we know has been suspended, are continuing to light their bonfires at night and curse the powers that be. They are not so numerous now, about 1,500-2,000. But passions are set to run high again on 4 April, because that is when a demonstration by the opposite point of view has been called. A number of democratic parties, arts societies, and the St. Petersburg Union of Entrepreneurs have asked the people of the town to raise their voices in protest against the decision by the latest Congress of People's Deputies which, as is known, is directed at restricting media freedom.

The demonstration is also expected to support the St. Petersburg TV center regarding the 600 Seconds program. The pro-Nevzorov camp gets together in the evenings, but this demonstration, which thousands will attend, has been set for 12 noon to avoid a confrontation outside the TV center. It is unlikely to be avoided, though, and all the law and order forces are not expecting any leave on 4 April.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Comments on Nuclear Issues, Russian Relations

LD0304181593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Report by station observer Valentyn Vasylko on "main points" of live interview with Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk on 2 April, answering questions posed by readership of MOLOD UKRAYINY newspaper; portions within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, in a live Ukrainian television and radio broadcast on 2 April, answered a variety of questions posed by the readership of the newspaper MOLOD UKRAYINY. Radio Ukraine observer Valentyn Vasylko introduces the audience of Radio's Ukraine External Service to the main points of Leonid Kravchuk's answers.

[Vasylko] Here is what Leonid Kravchuk said answering the question on nuclear weapons in Ukraine, the first in a number of topics raised:

[Kravchuk] "It is not for the first time that this question is being asked. It is even being posed by deputies. Today I received a statement by Viche [People's Assembly] in Lvov. The statement openly demands that the president declare Ukraine a nuclear state.

"Well, to begin with, these issues today are no longer settled by the president, because there is a declaration by the Supreme Council, or rather a resolution by the Supreme Council, to the effect that Ukrainian policy in this sphere is gradually—I would like to stress this—gradually to attain a nuclear-free status and be a state which will accede to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. All of this is our policy.

"However, policy is one thing. We also must take exactly the road that we have determined and not be a state whose policy changes, because in that case we would not be respected. I have already said this on several occasions and want to stress this once again for you.

"But there also are military, technological, economic, and other aspects of this matter. After all, a nuclear state can only be nuclear by having a nuclear industry. That is to say, the warheads that are today on the nuclear missiles cannot be used by Ukraine as weapons because they were not manufactured by us. This is the main point. We never want to use the warheads as weapons. We stand for the elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world. Thus Ukraine wants to (?set an example), but to do so prudently.

"We have certain issues that must be settled, those in respect of Ukraine's security, compensation, aid, finance, organization, and others. These issues must be settled and we will settle them in accordance with our state policy."

[Vasylko] Answering a question on the former CPSU functionaries, or partocrats, stepping up their activity generally in Ukraine, and particularly in parliament, President Kravchuk said:

[Kravchuk] "I would not like to generalize all the deputies. The term partocrat has already become widely used. But no generalization can be made. As far as using this terminology is concerned, partocrats differ, (?it seems to me). Not all of the former Communists in the Supreme Council assess the current situation in the same way and act in the same way.

"However, we must not forget that there are both the right-wing and the left-wing. I want this to be known and analyzed correspondingly. Everything today can not be blamed on one side. No lesser harm is being caused to us by both the right-wing and the left-wing. However, I understand that a significant distance will have to be traversed so that people may understand the situation and (?contribute to) the protection of the state.

"But someone might not understand this, and a constitution really needs to be adopted now. [Words indistinct] will execute its will and its command. But it is unrealistic to believe that today someone can be forcefully prohibited or someone can be forcefully ousted from the Supreme Council or a local council. This would not be democracy. This would not be a law-abiding state."

[Vasylko] The third topic raised concerned the president's awareness of opposition to Ukrainian independence. Here is Leonid Kravchuk's answer:

[Kravchuk] "There are forces today which would not like to see Ukraine independent. There are forces which understand independence in a particular way. They say it has got to be an independent republic within the framework of either the CIS or the Union, or something else. That is to say, these forces understand independence partially and not completely, not as sovereignty and full independence.

"What partial independence are they talking about? There are those who are against independence, and we know this. It is hard to say how large these forces are, but they exist. I think here our fear of it should not be exaggerated, but it is there.

"As for combating these forces, it should only be based on law. If we transgress the law, everybody must realize that that is the road to totalitarianism and lawlessness. We have already experienced all of this, and those who are older know about the grave consequences this had for us."

[Vasylko] Following the question on opposition to Ukrainian independence, Leonid Kravchuk was asked about his support for such a notorious figure as Metropolitan Filaret. In reply, the Ukrainian president said:

[Kravchuk] "First, I support nobody. My attitude is the same toward everybody, both toward Volodymyr and Filaret, as well as toward Lyubachivskyy [Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lyubachivskyy of Ukrainian Catholic

Church], and all the heads of church that function in Ukraine today. [Passage indistinct] In all the documents adopted by me, I raise the same issue of principle in all of [word indistinct], and that is that the state should form conditions for religious rights to be exercised, for equal rights and opportunities for all the churches and all the beliefs to function. Here I do not provide any advantage for anyone.

"The only thing is that I would like to appeal to believers and representatives and heads of church to find strength in themselves, and for the possibility not to exacerbate the interdenominational quarrel, and to take the road of unity. [Passage indistinct] The internal struggle has got to stop and the road to concord has to be found.

"As for the structures of power and others, they must not directly interfere in interdenominational and (?traditional) matters. This should only be done on the basis of law. [passage indistinct]"

[Vasylko] Next followed a question on Russian-Ukrainian relations. In particular, Leonid Kravchuk was asked about his meeting with Ruslan Khasbulatov and his attitude toward territorial claims made by Russia against Ukraine. Here is Leonid Kravchuk's reply:

[Kravchuk] "First, I needed a meeting with Khasbulatov in Kiev at the residence of the president in order to speak to him once again and to propose that everything possible should be done by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet to prevent the further examination of issues connected with the territorial integrity of Ukraine. As for me, this was the main point.

"I can openly say that, of course, Khasbulatov understands the complexity of all of this. But not everything depends on him in this instance. I do not make excuses for Khasbulatov, because he has got his own point of view and he has the right to hold this point of view. However, whether or not to raise this at the Supreme Soviet and its commissions does not entirely depend on Khasbulatov. The composition of deputies and, unfortunately, the manner of thinking of many Russian deputies is such that they cannot come to terms with the fact that Ukraine is an independent state, and they cannot accept the fact that the Crimea and Sevastopol at a certain time in the past [words indistinct] were transferred to Ukraine in accordance with the laws adopted by resolutions and decisions without any violations.

"I cannot agree with those rhetorical questions that raise the reconsideration of the borders. I insist and maintain that the only correct way for this question to be posed today is not to raise the issue of territorial integrity, the issue of the borders.

"Everybody has to realize straight away that, if we take that road it is going to be the road of (?danger and) confrontation. "We have got to live with Russia as friendly neighbors and equal partners. This is what was determined for us by destiny, and this is what was determined for us by history. That is why steps which would exacerbate our (?neighborliness) should not be taken today."

[Vasylko] Kravchuk was asked a question about certain forecasts in the West that Ukraine will be swallowed up by Russia in a year or so.

[Kravchuk] "First, [words indistinct] I do not know what Western politicians make such analysis and give such recommendations that Russia will swallow up Ukraine in a year and a half. It is possible that they write this in newspapers - I simply do not read papers that are published abroad. However, Ukraine is building its independent state, Ukraine is building its independent economy - we are managing this with difficulties, Ukraine is pursuing its independent foreign policy and we are managing with difficulties as well and we will be doing everything in order to uphold the independence of our state, in the first place, with the help of our own people and also by means of (?close) cooperation and mutual understanding with other peoples including Russia.

"I want everyone to understand that we have no grounds and no right before ourselves, before history and before our grandchildren to quarrel with Russia at present. We can and must live with Russia only in peace, accord, partnership and friendship. There simply is no any other way. If someone understands this in a way that one can pursue the line of confrontation - this means being doomed to complete confrontation. We cannot allow this - there are millions of people. Russia is great and Ukraine is great; can they afford such an unconsidered and careless policy as that which is sometimes suggested to us? I repeat, only cooperation, mutual help as well as accord, friendship and partnership must determine our today's and long-term goals."

[Vasylko] Leonid Kravchuk was also asked the following question: How, in his opinion will Ukraine live in a year or in two or three years?

[Kravchuk] "It depends on two factors how Ukraine will live in a year or in two or three years: on our ability and wisdom to govern the state and not to allow confrontation. I apply this, in the first place, to the president, the government and the Supreme Council. And, second, on the ability of people to work and not argue. If these two factors work, we will govern and will quickly get rid of those mistakes, and these mistakes do exist, and people will stop going against each other - one party against another, one movement against another - and will unite, will achieve accord and will start working for Ukraine.

"So if these two factors start working, I am convinced that in a year or two Ukraine will be both independent and richer and a legal state. We will preserve the state of Ukraine (?for ourselves) and (?for) our children and grandchildren (?and will) be building it."

Kravchuk Issues Decree on Military Service

AU0504085893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 1 Apr 93 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Transferring Servicemen to the Reserve and the Forthcoming Call-Up of Ukraine Citizens for Regular Military Service" issued in Kiev on 29 March]

[Text] In accordance with Ukraine's law "On Universal Military Duty and Military Service," I decree as follows:

1. To transfer, in May and June 1993, to the reserve from the ranks of Ukraine's Armed Forces, Ukraine's National Guard, Ukraine's Security Service, Ukraine's Border Troops, Ukraine's Internal and Escort Guards, Ukraine's Civil Defense Troops, and the Black Sea Fleet those servicemen who have completed their terms of regular military service.

2. To call up, in May and June 1993, for regular military service in the ranks of Ukraine's Armed Forces, Ukraine's National Guard, Ukraine's Security Service, Ukraine's Border Troops, Ukraine's Internal and Escort Guards, Ukraine's Civil Defense Troops, and the Black Sea Fleet those male citizens of Ukraine who are 18 years old at the time they are inducted into military units and who have no right to deferment from induction, and also those citizens of older induction age who have lost their right to deferment from military service.

L. Kravchuk, President of Ukraine

29 March 1993

Kravchuk Begins Working Visit to Odessa

LD0504085493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0742 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa April 5 TASS—President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine arrived on a one day working visit to the Black Sea port city of Odessa today.

During his stay here the president will acquaint himself with the work of the selection and genetics institute, naval academies and the Yuzhniy port near Odessa, and will also hold meetings with the city and regional leadership.

President Kravchuk is expected to return to the capital Kiev this evening.

Cabinet's Decree Guarantees Repayment of Foreign Credits

AU0304165493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Mar 93 p 7

["Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Decree on Providing State Guarantees for Foreign Credits That Are Granted to Ukraine in Accordance With International Agreements" issued in Kiev on 17 March]

[Text] Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers decrees as follows:

1. To determine that Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, on behalf of the state, is a guarantor of credits that, in accordance with international agreements, are granted to Ukraine by governments of foreign states, international financial organizations, and foreign banks.

The servicing of foreign credits obtained under Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers guarantees is the responsibility of Ukraine's State Export-Import Bank or another financial agent authorized by the Ukrainian government.

The guarantees that are given to foreign creditors are ensured by the capital deposited in Ukraine's State Currency Fund in which Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Reserve for repaying foreign credits is created or by other property.

The following may be used as a pledge:

The property of the credit recipient that is in his ownership or under his full economic jurisdiction (at the consent of the owner or a body authorized to manage that property) or property that will belong to the credit recipient at the time when he is expected to fulfill the obligations, provided that this is stipulated by the credit agreement;

Facilities of unfinished construction that are fully financed from the state budget and other types of property that are in general state ownership, but have not been transferred for full economic jurisdiction or operational management to enterprises, institutions, or organizations.

2. To stop the action of Item 6 in Part 6 of Article 8 of Ukraine's law "On Banks and Banking Activity" (Proceedings of the Supreme Council of the Ukrainian SSR, 1991, No. 25, p 281; Proceedings of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, 1992, No. 20, p 276; No. 47, p 644 and paragraph 6 of part 3 in Article 9 of the Ukrainian SSR law "On the External Economic Activity" (Proceedings of the Supreme Council of the Ukrainian SSR, 1991, No. 29, p 377; Proceedings of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, 1992, No. 20, p 276).

3. This decree becomes effective on the day of its publication.

L. Kuchma, Ukraine's prime minister

A. Lobov, minister of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers

Kiev, 17 March 1993

Cabinet Statement Encourages Oil Imports

LD0404110093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Here is information we have received from the press service of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers:

Rumors of a tough course taken by the government toward commercial [komertsiynyy] structures delivering

and refining oil and petroleum products in Ukraine at present are intensively spreading. This does not correspond with reality.

The Government of Ukraine supports every proposal on oil and petroleum product imports to Ukraine. Ukrainian oil refineries have the capability to ensure the refining and transportation of any amount of petroleum products proposed.

Leaders Meet To Discuss Currency Market

OW0304142593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, Parliament Chairman Ivan Plyushch, and Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma had a meeting on Friday [2 April] to discuss the situation in the republic's currency market, where the exchange rate of the karbovanets on Tuesday March 30 had gone down to 3,000 to the dollar.

According to Volodymyr Popel, an adviser to one of the deputy prime ministers, and Viktor Pynzenyk, the economics minister, the unprecedented fall of the karbovanets is an event whose significance does not extend outside the Currency Exchange. He told INTERFAX that this could be accounted for by the fact that demand for hard currency had by far outstripped its supply, which had nothing to do with the actual situation in the currency market, the rate at the commercial banks and on the black market not exceeding 2,500 karbovantsi to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Popular Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka] leader Vyacheslav Chornovil said the slump of the karbovanets had been the result of intervention on the part of the Ukraina Agroindustrial Bank and Prominvestbank (Industrial Investment Bank), which, he said, at the Tuesday trading session, bought $3 Mn [million] for money they had received from the National Bank to give subsidies to agriculture.

This was denied by the head of the marketing department of the Ukraina bank, Yuriy Sapelnyak, who said his bank had taken no part in the Tuesday session at all. He said the terms on which the National Bank gave credits ruled out the use of the funds for buying hard currency.

Cabinet Issues Decree on Guarding Armed Forces' Facilities

AU0504122093 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 1 Apr 93 p 9

["Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Decree No. 195 on Improving the Guarding of the Armed Forces Facilities" issued in Kiev on 17 March]

[Text] In order to further improve the organization of the guarding of the Armed Forces facilities, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers decrees as follows:

To introduce two types of departmental guarding in the Armed Forces: Militarized guarding for particularly important and classified facilities (with the exception of those that are guarded by regular sentries) and regular guarding for other facilities.

The Ministry of Defense must approve the regulations on militarized and regular guarding of the Armed Forces facilities.

L. Kuchma, prime minister of Ukraine

A. Lobov, minister of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers

Navy Chief Comments on Tasks, Development Plans

OW0404143993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1254 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The main tasks of the Ukrainian Navy are to keep Ukraine's territory integral, safeguard its interests in the world ocean, and fulfil its world security commitments in line with the UN Charter. This has been declared by rear-admiral Boris Kozhin, the Ukrainian navy commander, in an interview with an Interfax correspondnet on the eve of the anniversary of the Ukrainian fleet. The decision to create the republican navy was adopted on 5 April, 1992.

"Our country has interests in regions beyond the Black Sea where our ships will reach"—Admiral Kozhin said. In his words, naval vessels will be assigned to escort oil tankers, especially when they pass through areas of local conflicts.

The Ukrainian fleet now comprises the navigation ship "Slavutich," the guard ship "Getman Sagaidachniy" (undergoing sail- performance tests), the boat "SKR-112," and the hovercraft "Donets" (getting ready for sail-performance tests). The construction of the small anti-submarine ship "Lutsk" is nearing completion. The navy is several thousand men strong.

In Admiral Kozhin's words, the republican fleet will have up to 10 ships by the end of this year and in line with a naval development concept will eventually have about 100 vessels. New vessels are expected from all republican ship-building yards in Nikolayev, Kerch, and Feodosia. The navy's numerical strength is expected to be about 40,000 men.

"We are full of optimism," Admiral Kozhin said. Now after one year of work, we have no slightest doubt that the decision adopted on 5 April, 1992 was right.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Attends Parliament Proceedings

LD0304120793 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Parliament continued its work today under the chairmanship of Serikbolsyn Abdildin. The previous evening the deputies listened to a report from State Counsellor Kairbek Suleymenov on proposed changes and additions to the code of criminal practice and the code on violation of the administrative law. The draft law was sent back for further work.

The issue of reorganizing Leninsk city people's court and the proposing of changes and additions to the appropriate legislative acts in connection with this was also considered.

Yesterday the session began discussing the adoption of a Supreme Kenges resolution on government information about the state of affairs in agriculture and the progress in implementing the law of the Kazakh SSR [as heard] on prioritization of development of villages [auls], the countryside, and the agro-industrial complex in the Kazakh SSR.

Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko gave an explanation. Taking into account the proposals of deputies, the resolution was adopted. After that, according to a resolution [as heard] of Galym Baynazarov, chairman of the Board of the National State Bank, a resolution of the Presidium of the Supreme Kenges on a credit plan for 1993 was approved by parliament. After that the deputies started considering a draft law on transportation in the Republic of Kazakhstan, a report on which was delivered by Minister of Transport Nigmatzhan Isingarin. Having exchanged views, the deputies adopted the draft law in its first reading.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev spoke in the Supreme Kenges debates yesterday.

Continues CIS Integration Moves

MK0204123293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 93 p 3

[Sergey Kozlov report: "Nursultan Nazarbayev Continues Integration Efforts. Kazakhstan Parliament Convened for Regular Session"]

[Excerpts] The opening of the Supreme Soviet session was accompanied by a ritual that has nearly become traditional. Despite cold and snow, over 300 disgruntled demonstrators waited on the street for the emergence of the people's representatives, whereas in the conference hall the session's agenda would not lend itself to approval for three hours. The demonstrators from the Union of Homeless, the "Generation" ["Pokoleniye"] veterans' organization, and workers of several Alma-Ata enterprises demanded that they be given shelter, that the pauperization of the people be ended, and that Alma-Ata Mayor Zamanbek Nurkadilov be dismissed. As always those in great agitation among the deputies were the agrarians, who loudly pointed to numerous signs of a collapse which was about to engulf agriculture. [passage omitted]

The agenda of the 10th session, however, (which, as a matter of fact, is to last for slightly more than two weeks) is already fairly packed. More than 70 draft laws and decrees are scheduled to be considered, primarily dealing with the economy and finance. They include the bills "On Banks," "On the National State Bank," and "On Currency Regulation." It is planned to broaden the powers of state financial control agencies. Three documents vetoed by President Nazarbayev, namely, the bills "On the Control Chamber," "On Defense," and "On Trade Unions," are to be discussed again. According to local observers and the press, the most controversial of them is the bill on the parliament's control organ which after some time may well become a sort of second government.

Having listened to the parliamentarians' speeches on the opening day of the session, President Nazarbayev summed up the discussion as follows: "I am absolutely in agreement with many of the speakers. But it would be desirable if you were not only to voice your views, but also to put forward specific proposals. I personally and the government have been actively dealing with these subjects. At my initiative we managed to bring together eight prime ministers and representatives of a total of 13 states of the former USSR in Akmola—this is unprecedented. I proposed that a union of agrarians of the former USSR be set up. We invited all machine builders who manufacture spare parts, including Rostselmash, the Krasnoyarsk Combine Factory, and the Moscow Tractor Plant to join the union."

The attempt to thus unite producers of various republics, in Nazarbayev's view, proved successful: "All of them thanked me for bringing them together like this for the first time in the past few years. In addition, we created a working group, which is to convene in a week's time and resolve the questions of interrelations, unlike the presidents, who are still unable to reach agreement. I spoke about this without mincing words."

As for fertilizers and fuel, the Kazakhstan Government, according to Nazarbayev, was working on this problem day and night.

Dwelling on the protection of borders, customs control, prices of energy sources, and the shortage of cash, Nazarbayev said: "Whatever we may discuss today, not everything, unfortunately, depends on Kazakhstan."

Reminding the deputies of the agreement reached in Omsk, where it decided not to establish border controls, the president stated bitterly: "In two weeks' time they erected those barriers. Then we went with the whole government to Moscow and agreed that they would be removed. It is well known that I made a proposal for the heads of states who signed the CIS Charter to meet and reach agreement on four key questions: a normal banking union with coordinated currency policies, an economic committee to track the observance of our

accords, a single defense space, and the status of relations with the states that have not signed the CIS Charter. I am insistent about this and will do my utmost to see these questions resolved. If they are not resolved and the heads of the CIS fail to meet for this purpose, then I will suggest to you that we make absolutely different decisions. Absolutely. But let us wait one more time."

The telegram proposing to meet and discuss these questions, Nazarbayev noted, drew positive reaction from seven heads of CIS states, and what remains to be done is to agree on timing. As for the shortage of cash, Nazarbayev said: "Our cash is printed in Moscow and Perm. In this connection I am asking you to ratify the CIS Charter so that I will have a trump card when I will be speaking with all of them."

Without delay, literally on the next day, the deputies provided the president with this trump card—the Charter was ratified.

The beginning of the session was marked by, again traditional, hostility shown by the Supreme Soviet apparatus toward the press. Out of over 70 journalists who applied for accreditation, more than a dozen were denied. At the meeting of the parliament's presidium, Speaker Serikbolsyn Abdildin noted in that connection that there were too many people wishing to be accredited. The presidium agreed with him, and the parliament's press service, led by Yerbol Shaymerdenov, former press supervisor at the Central Committee of the Kazakhstan Communist Party, did not fail the parliamentarians: All those who had earlier criticized the parliament in any way were deleted from the list of those accredited. The operation was performed in a classical style—the explanation given was "this is the leadership's decision."

Nazarbayev Initiative on Asia Discussed at UN, CSCE

LD0204185593 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative on the convocation of a conference on interaction and measures of trust in Asia has been discussed at the New York meeting of permanent representatives of 20 Asian countries at the United Nations organization, by UN representatives, and by the CSCE. He forwarded this initiative to the 47th session of the UN General Assembly in October of last year.

Opening the debate, Akmaral Arystanbekova, Kazakhstan's permanent representative at the United Nations, pointed out that the initiative by Nursultan Nazarbayev is geared toward consolidating international security and trust, effective implementation of preventive diplomacy, support for universal peace and stability, and stepping up the role of the United Nations under conditions of the post-confrontation era.

It was underlined that Kazakhstan's proposal is in complete conformity with the goals and principles of the UN Charter and the concept that UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali expounded in his report "The World Agenda."

The memorandum of Kazakhstan on the convocation of the conference on interaction and measures of trust in Asia, offered by the meeting participants and circulated before the meeting as an official document of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council, contains the main principles and trends of cooperation within the context of consolidating peace and stability and the promotion of achieving economic prosperity by Asian states.

The participants in the meeting in New York highly assessed the initiative of the Kazakhstan president on the creation of the structures of security and cooperation in Asia and the climate of trust and stability in the region. Pointing out the timeliness of forwarding this initiative, they welcomed Kazakhstan's effort to begin a broad dialogue on measures of trust and cooperation in Asia and to unite the efforts of the states of the region to achieve this goal. The meeting participants supported, on the whole, Kazakhstan's proposal to hold regular meetings of permanent representatives and experts of the UN missions with the involvement of the greatest possible number of countries in this region in the discussion of further measures on the implementation of this initiative.

Nazarbayev Meets People's Deputies on Agriculture

LD0404091793 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Vladimir Cherkizov]

[Excerpts] The urgent problems of agriculture were discussed 31 March during President Nursultan Nazarbayev's meeting with agrarian people's deputies. [passage omitted]

Summing up the speeches of the parliamentarians and heads of a number of ministries and departments, Nursultan Nazarbayev emphasized that the old practice, which existed in the USSR, when of all the produced products, the republic was left only with what it needed for internal consumption, while the rest was taken out of the country, and when subsidies and material-technical resources were chanelled for almost everything, this became a thing of the past together with the Union. We are not returning to it, we are switching to market relations, where success can only be ensured by efficient work.

Do you think we can count on a more a less dignified life with a cows milk yield of 1,200-1,300 kilograms a year and 250-300 grams daily weight gain of calves, which is quite common here? Of course not. Then why don't we really start a radical reform? Why don't we make every laborer responsible for his job?

I thought it necessary, Nursultan Nazarbayev said, to issue a second decree on deepening reforms in the countryside. I believe that it will be met with understanding in the localities, and privatization will gain momentum. In the nearest future we should look into it and take steps against the guilty ones. There is no doubt, he stated, that all-round support should be given to agriculture. He gave the composition of a working group, including deputies, specialists in agriculture, and economists charged with the task of working out proposals along these lines. By the time of the discussion of the agrarian issue at the Supreme Soviet session, a concrete and balanced resolution should be available. At the same time a decree by the president of the republic will be prepared, banning unauthorized price regulation.

We should carefully weigh up, Nursultan Nazarbayev went on, the present possibilities of increasing centralized investment in the rural sector, and starting to advance production and improving the granting of credits.

Poor liaison between the CIS countries prevents normal work. The president expressed his intention to put forward a proposal in the very near future to the leaders of the republics that have signed the CIS Charter, to get together and consider whether it is actually realistic to set up a union of banks, and increase the efficiency of credits. If not, the only thing left for us is to introduce our own currency. Though the practice of the Baltic republics and others shows that it is not all that simple. It is important to know for sure whether this currency will be more viable than the ruble?

It was suggested here to transfer the national bank to the control of the government But it will be more correct if we raise this issue at the session. Any kind of innovation is important that will do good to the cause, and improve money circulation.

Nursultan Nazarbayev said in conclusion: Whether or not we can manage it, we want to use the fact of having our own coal. By reducing the price for it, we could have influenced the level of prices for the agricultural and the industrial produce. The most important thing is not to let them spiral.

Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and Kayrolla Yerezhepov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, took part in the meeting.

President Signs Decree Establishing Naval Forces

LD0204183893 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] By decree of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the naval forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan have been established in the composition of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan was asked to submit proposals on sites for the Naval Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the cabinet ministries of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The cabinet ministries of the Republic of Kazakhstan were instructed to implement the measures on the naval forces with financial, food, technical-material, and medical provisions out of funds allocated for the upkeep of the armed forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Today, the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan issued a decree on transfer to the reserves of servicemen who have completed their fixed period of service and on the regular call-up of the citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan for April-June 1993. The full text of the decrees will be published in the press.

Nazarbayev Meets Turkish, Russian Ambassadors

LD0204202893 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Today, President Nursultan Nazarbayev received ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey and the Russian Federation in Kazakhstan, Argun Ozpay and Boris Krasnikov respectively, at their own request.

During the talks with Argun Ozpay, the issue under discussion was the implementation of the accords achieved previously between Kazakhstan and Turkey. Having common historical roots and similar customs, traditions, and culture, it was noted that the relationship between the two countries has been widening and strengthening. Confidence was expressed that the upcoming visit of Turkish President Turgut Ozal to Kazakhstan will give a fresh impetus for mutual advantage cooperation.

During the talks with Boris Krasnikov, Nursultan Nazarbayev underlined the necessity of further joint actions, together with Russia, for the strengthening of the CIS and the consolidation of the economic integration of the CIS. This is the main direction of the foreign policy of Kazakhstan, said the president.

Israeli Delegation Pays Visit, Discusses Cooperation

LD0204191793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Video report by correspondent Mair Abrakhmanov, including recorded excerpt of interview with Shim'on Shetrit, Israeli minister of science and technology; Shetrit in Hebrew fading to Russian translation; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Studio announcer] Guests, not just from the Far East, but from the Near East too, are arriving in Central Asia. A Kazakh- Israeli economic commission has completed its work in the capital of Kazakhstan.

[Abrakhmanov] [Video shows Kazakh officials and Israeli delegation seated at a platform in front of a hall full of people; flags of Israel and Kazakhstan on table] Meetings between entrepeneurs from the two countries have become a regular event. The investment policy of Kazakhstan and

the fairly favorable tax system attracts them here. For example, joint enterprises producing consumer goods, processing rural products, producing medical equipment and pharmaceutical enterprises do not have to pay any taxes on their profits for two to five years.

As a result of these businessmen, projects in the communications and agricultural spheres are already being implemented in Alma-Ata and in Chimkent Oblast, and I think one can say that the main forces of Israeli business are getting involved in this venture.

Eighty people, headed by the minister of energy and infrastructure, have held two days of talks about large-scale, long- term projects in the sphere of heavy and light industry, transport, construction, banking, and finance.

[Shetrit] The combining of Israel's entrepeneurial spirit and most up-to-date technology and the huge economic potential and natural resources of Kazakhstan is the goal of our cooperation. It should help both countries to attain a higher standard of living and stronger economies.

Suleymenov, Mongolian Foreign Minister Meet

LD0204171093 Alma-Ata Radio Alma-Ata World Service in English 1830 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] On 25 March Kazakhstan Foreign Minister, Tuleutay Suleymenov, met with the Mongolian Foreign Minister, Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren. The two foreign ministers exchanged opinions on issues of bilateral relations in the sphere of trade, economy, culture, and others. An invitation to the Kazakhstan President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, for visiting Mongolia in the near future was extended by the Mongolian foreign minister.

Constitutional Court Stripped of Several Powers

MK0304130093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 93 p 3

[Sergey Kozlov report under "Kazakhstan" rubric: "Whom Is Constitutional Court Entitled To Judge? New Draft Law Severely Limits Its Potential"]

[Text] The Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet Presidium has approved a new draft law on the republic Constitutional Court. According to the document, the supreme organ of judicial authority for protecting the constitution is to sharply limit its sphere of influence and is to be turned from an active defender of the Basic Law into a passive observer. This was the conclusion drawn by, in particular, Doctor of Juridical Sciences Begaliyev, Candidate of Juridical Sciences Kopabayev, head of the Kazakh National State University Constitutional Law Department, and eminent state figures.

Jurists, Constitutional Court supporters, and observers of parliament's activity note that, having been defeated this January in its attempt to abolish the court, the Supreme Soviet Presidium decided in April to make up for the loss. What is the essence of the proposed draft law?

Under it, the Constitutional Court—formed, incidentally, 2 July of last year—will not have the right to consider documents adopted before that day. Acts adopted by Supreme Soviet organs (the Presidium and committees, and in the future the Control Chamber) and guiding explanations [rukovodyashchiye razyasneniya] of plenums of the Supreme and Higher Arbitration Courts will be removed from the Constitutional Court's jurisdiction. The right to give its findings in the event of an early termination of the powers of the president, vice president, Cabinet of Ministers, chairmen of the Supreme and Higher Arbitration Courts, general prosecutor, and heads of the republic's diplomatic missions will also be excluded. The court is also being stripped of the right to consider cases affecting citizens' constitutional rights and the right to attend sessions of the Supreme Soviet, Cabinet of Ministers, and a number of other organs. But that is still not all. While previously the court's members could not be challenged, this right has now been granted. That is, all that has to be done is to challenge three of the Constitutional Court's 11 members and in the absence of a quorum the consideration of any question is blocked.

The struggle that parliament's leadership has been waging against the Constitutional Court virtually from 2 July 1992 could be crowned with success this time. Many deputies who in January voted against abolishing the court believe that their main mission has been fulfilled—the Constitutional Court exists and "certain limitations on the sphere of its jurisdiction" is something that is not so important compared with other, much more serious, problems. Vitaliy Voronov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Human Rights and an eminent jurist and state figure, recently pointed out the danger of such sentiments in parliament.

The new draft law's adoption will mean that the Constitutional Court is in effect ousted from the Basic Law's real implementation. As Begaliyev and Kopabayev note in their conclusion, "constitutional control is being limited merely to the letter of normative acts." As for their practical implementation, the supreme organ of judicial protection will not have any opportunity to influence this. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the opponents of the Constitutional Court's present functions include Nikolay Okuyev, chairman of the parliamentary Commission for Questions of Legislation, Legality, and Law and Order. This jurist, well-known and respected in the republic, at one time ardently supported the creation of a supreme judicial organ but subsequently changed his position drastically, and he has now joined other members of parliament's leadership in striving to subordinate constitutional judges to the Presidium.

At the last session of the parliamentary Committee for Questions of Legislation and Legality, its chairman formulated his viewpoint roughly as follows: "The Constitutional Court must be an ideal court and everything not pertaining to the court must be removed from its jurisdiction (for example, giving preliminary findings

regarding officials is not a judicial activity); other courts are concerned with the practice of applying the law and the Constitutional Court certainly does not have the right to judge them." Okuyev's opponents, however, counter that, in adopting "guiding explanations" the Supreme and Higher Arbitration Courts are not administering the law (that is, deciding specific cases, based on the law) but are in effect creating the law, and are in turn accountable to the Constitutional Court.

Right now nobody can bring himself to predict how the latest clash between the conflicting sides will end. The Constitutional Court members themselves (unlike, for instance, their colleagues in Russia) do not have the right to comment on events. And they are not doing so, although according to certain information the 11 judges' mood is extremely pessimistic. Consideration of the new draft law is scheduled for 13 April, which was correctly calculated by the court's opponents. Documents submitted for consideration in the last days of the session (it is due to last until 15 April) do not, as a rule, encounter strong resistance from the battle-weary deputies, and these days a quorum in the Kazakhstan parliament is an abstract concept. But despite that, laws are adopted. It is quite possible that this law will also be adopted.

Tajikistan

Dushanbe Closed To Prevent 'Provocation'

LD0204223793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Recorded video report by correspondent S. Sokolova from Tajikistan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sokolova] Following the death of Sangak Safarov, National Front leader, and his associate Faizali Saidov, all ways in and out of Dushanbe have been blocked in order to avoid possible provocation by inhabitants of the capital or its oblast inclined to extremism. But in general, the situation in Tajikistan has so far remained relatively calm.

A large part of the opposition has now gone into the mountains, and is mostly in Garm, Tovil-Dara, and Kalai-Khumb rayons. They will not take any action in the near future.

[M. Ashurov, commander of the 201st Division] They are waiting for assistance from abroad. There are also concentrations of the opposition overseas. We can expect what you could call partisan actions, that is, acts of terrorism, blowing up bridges, in order to destabilize the situation in the republic. But there could be large-scale activities sometime in late spring or the beginning of summer.

[Sokolova] According to National Security Council information, there are now about 500 Afghan mojahedin on Tajikistani territory, waiting for orders from the opposition to begin combat operations.

Militant Unit Reportedly Resisting Russian Troops

LD0404215693 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The unit of militants which invaded Tajikistan from the Afghan territory is holding fast against the Russian troops that have encircled it. The unit, numbering over 100 men, crossed the border near the city of Moskovskiy, moved 50 km into the Tajik territory and was encircled. Border guards use aircraft against the invaders and, according to Tajik sources, have destroyed some 40 militants. The commander of the CIS border guards in Tajikistan, Vitaliy Gritsan, told journalists that recently another group of invaders was stopped.

Foreign Ministry Protests to Afghanistan

OW0304163293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry on Saturday [3 April] handed in a letter of protest to the Afghan Ambassador in Dushanbe, Muhammad Umar Asir, in connection with attempts to trespass the Tajik border and interfere in Tajikistan's internal affairs.

On Friday, a large group of armed commandos was stopped as it tried to penetrate into Tajikistan from Afghanistan. One Russian border guard was killed in the skirmish.

The ministry warns that, in case such practices are continued, "a crushing blow will be dealt at any forces trying to disturb the peaceful existence of the citizens of our long-suffering land." The ministry says it possesses information to the effect that Afghan citizens take part in organizing camps for training Tajik commandos who have escaped from Tajikistan, providing them with modern weapons in order to send them back to Tajikistan.

Such activities "are not only leading to the escalation of tension along the Tajik-Afghan border but are also giving reasons to doubt the sincerity of the repeated assurances on the part of the leadership of Afghanistan that it would take all necessary measures to prevent such acts," the ministry says.

Afghan General on Relations With Tajik Refugees

MK0104115293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Mar 93 p 3

[Interview with Afghan Major General Abdul Latif, controller of Afghanistan's Imam-Sakhib County, by Igor Rotar under "The Other Side" rubric: "If Dushanbe Does Not Meet Fundamentalists' Demands, War in Tajikistan Will Be Eternal, Afghan General Abdul Latif Promises"]

[Text] Afghan Major General Abdul Latif controls Imam-Sakhib County [uyezd], which borders Tajik territory. According to a claim made by Russian border

troops headquarters, it is in this sector that border violations are particularly frequent. The border guards are saying that the "incidents" are not least connected with the position of the field commander from Imam-Sakhib County. A native Uzbek, Abdul Latif is a fervent supporter of Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan. During the long war he was famous for his fearlessness in the struggle against the "Soviet occupiers." Today on the territory of Imam-Sakhib County there are around 10,000 refugees from Tajikistan, many of whom want to return to their homeland carrying weapons.

[Rotar] What are the Tajik refugees' living conditions in Imam-Sakhib County like?

[Abdul Latif] Thanks to the Almighty, the conditions in which Tajik refugees are living are fairly good. Since the refugees are the same nationality as the local population, it was possible to settle them in some homes and supply them with all the essentials.

[Rotar] Who is giving them help?

[Abdul Latif] We are sharing the last of what we have. As regards the UN mission, at the moment its help has decreased. We are helping the refugees mainly by our own efforts.

[Rotar] Is there help from other Islamic states, for example Saudi Arabia and Iran?

[Abdul Latif] Although the refugees do need outside help, it has not yet arrived.

[Rotar] When the extermination of the Garm [garmskiye] Tajiks began in Tajikistan, did you help them to reach Afghanistan?

[Abdul Latif] When the refugees crossed over to us in Afghanistan, our main task was to protect them from the cold and bad weather, to give them shelter, and give them accommodations.

[Rotar] Russian border guards claim that the mujahidin organized a crossing of the Pyandzh, a border river.

[Abdul Latif] There was no military help at all. The only thing we did was to give them shelter here in Afghanistan.

[Rotar] Mr. Latif, you did not understand me entirely correctly. I am not saying that your people participated in military actions in Tajikistan. But it is known that when the refugees began crossing the river, Afghan mujahidin helped with the crossing in order to save these people.

[Abdul Latif] Indeed, in the first days there were such cases, when Afghans crossed into Tajikistan and helped the refugees cross over to us. But this was the personal initiative of individual mujahidin. When I found out about it I prohibited such actions.

[Rotar] The refugees say that Russian people, some of them soldiers, also crossed over to Afghanistan with them.

[Abdul Latif] There were very few Russians among the refugees, three or four people in all. We are giving them the same help as everybody else. Whether they were servicemen, I do not know. We did not ask them.

[Rotar] What is the mood of the Tajik refugees? Do they intend to return to Tajikistan?

[Abdul Latif] We are not interfering in their affairs. Whether they intend to return must be decided by themselves, as well as the Tajik Government. There are leaders among the refugees. If the leaders are given safe passage on Tajik territory, they will take the rest of the refugees back.

[Rotar] Some of the refugees' leaders intend to return to Tajikistan to fight...

[Abdul Latif] Understand that we have our own big problems here in Afghanistan. We have more than enough of them. We are not interfering in the refugees' affairs, we are not giving them military help.

[Rotar] What would you do if the refugees nonetheless decide to return to Tajikistan carrying weapons?

[Abdul Latif] We will not permit it.

[Rotar] You are an avowed anticommunist, a Muslim. New leaders have come to power under Red banners in Tajikistan. The same people who were forced to flee—people who think the same way as you: orthodox Muslims. Do you really not want to help these people?

[Abdul Latif] We are demanding that the Tajik Government meet the legitimate demands of the supporters of Islam.

[Rotar] And if these demands are not met?

[Abdul Latif] Then the war in Tajikistan will be eternal.

Rakhmonov Interviewed on 'Civil Crisis,' Russian Ties

MK0104121693 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No 14, 31 Mar-6 Apr 93 (signed to press 30 Mar) p 4

[Interview with Imamali Sharipovich Rakhmonov, speaker of the Tajikistan parliament, by Yuriy Kushko in Dushanbe; date not given: "Was Not on the Shortlist for Promotion"]

[Text] Imamali Rakhmonov regards his election to the supreme state post in Tajikistan as unexpected. Indeed, prior to November 1992 his name had not featured on any lists of "the reserve for nomination to leading positions" that had been an essential element of cadre policy in past years. Rakhmonov was director of a sovkhoz and for a month acted as chairman of an oblast executive committee. At the most troublesome moment in the republic's life a Supreme Soviet session decided that he should be parliament speaker. Despite his relatively young age—he is 40—Rakhmonov in many respects corresponds to the Tajiks' idea of a country's leader, and his tough decisions immediately earned him a reputation as a strong-willed man. In Dushanbe he still

lives without his family—his mother, wife, and seven children so far remain in his home kishlak [village], a long way away from the capital....

[Kushko] Imamali Sharipovich, do you now have the hope that the situation in the republic will change for the better?

[Rakhmonov] I would not indulge in illusions: It is still complicated. The civil crisis caused by armed clashes between various political groups has gone too far. In some areas in Tajikistan weapons are still firing, although not quite so often as last November-December. Gradually, however, a trend toward stabilization is quietly asserting itself and in my opinion has already acquired an irreversible character.

The most important thing is that our aspiration to restore law and order and protect the people's civil rights has been supported by the widest strata of society. We have been recognized as the constitutional authority.

We are not a government of revenge, as we are sometimes portrayed, and we do not intend to avenge anybody. We rely on peaceful, political methods of resolving all problems.

At this moment, so as to stabilize the situation completely, we are seeking to consolidate thoroughly the institutions of state power and administration, disarm the remaining illegal armed groups, and return the refugees to their homes. Among our top priority tasks is the formation of our own Armed Forces, which is already under way. It is also necessary to close, as soon as possible, the CIS border along its Tajik-Afghan section, where the situation continues to be unstable. I am confident that the accord reached on this score with the leadership of Russia and other Commonwealth member states that are parties to the collective security system treaty will be implemented and we shall succeed in stemming the flow of arms and drugs from Afghanistan.

....Immediately after it came to power the republic's new leadership declared its intention to build a really democratic, rule-of-law, and secular state. This is being opposed by no more than 5 to 6 percent of the population. Therefore our ideological opponents have no chances for success. In the longer term the republic's new Constitution will be adopted and on its basis an effective power system created.

As for the economy, its condition is really critical. The colossal losses inflicted by the civil war have brought the national economy to the verge of catastrophe. Economic revival cannot be achieved overnight. Years will be needed for that. At the first stage we have to rehabilitate all the damaged facilities, and in order to run the economy, we need to introduce market regulators gradually and in a balanced way. The radical direction of economic transformations is privatization and corporatization of state property and free development of small and medium-size businesses. At the same time we cannot abandon the social security system without which many Tajikistan residents, already under the pressure of an unbearable spending burden, will be pushed far below the poverty line.

In revitalizing our economy, we are counting on assistance from the CIS countries and also on foreign investments.

[Kushko] What is your vision of the prospects for Russo-Tajik relations?

[Rakhmonov] We do not envision our further progress down the path of building a democratic, rule-of-law, and secular state without a dynamic, full-blooded relationship with Russia. To this end in the near future a treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance will be signed between our states. This will enable us to speak about a qualitatively new level of Russo-Tajik relations. It is necessary not only to preserve the existing state-to-state trade, economic, and humanitarian links, but also broaden them as far as possible. We favor further development of economic integration and closer forms of it. The appearance of the first joint Tajik-Russian ventures promises to bear good fruit in the not so distant future. Tajikistan is ready to protect and stimulate Russian investments in its economy.

We consider it important to reach agreement with Russia as soon as possible on coordinating actions in the sphere of economic transformations and especially in structural, credit-and-monetary, currency, tax, and price policy.

We attach special importance to ensuring that the rights and freedoms of Tajikistan citizens, including ethnic Russians, be dependably safeguarded. A Russian community has been registered in our republic, and it pursues high-profile activities. For their part not a few Tajiks live and work on Russian soil.

300,000 Russian-Speaking Citizens Depart Since Feb 1990

OW0304174993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Feliks Dovzhenok, an adviser of the Russian Federation Embassy to Tajikistan, reported to Interfax that 300,000 Russian-speaking people have left Tajikistan since February, 1990 when the first anti-Russian slogans were voiced. The peak of the migration process was registered in 1992 when 105,000 Russian-speaking people left the Republic of Tajikistan. There were many highly qualified experts among them and Tajikistan's economy feels the loss of these workers until now.

According to the census of the population conducted in 1989, about 388,500 Russians lived in Tajikistan at that time. According to the estimates of experts, about 200,000 Russian-speaking citizens are still in Tajikistan. In Dovzhenok's words, at least 20,000 people can make a decision to return to Tajikistan from Russia.

The Embassy reported that the migration process of the Russian- speaking population from Tajikistan to the Russian Federation is going on. The difficulties with respect to the Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan are primarily caused by failure to regulate legal issues between the republics. The signing of a bilateral agreement has been postponed for the fifth time due to difficulties in the political life in both countries.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Fires Interior Minister, Customs Committee Chairman

OW0204171893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources have informed Interfax that President Separmurat Niyazov has sharply criticized the performance of the law enforcement and customs services in his country.

The head of the state dismissed Interior Minister Serdan Charyyarov and Chairman of the Customs Committee "for unsatisfactory performance, miscalculations in selection and appointment of personnel, and illegal activities of certain subordinates." The new Interior Minister is Kurbanmukhamed Kasymov who earlier was vice premier supervising law enforcement, administrative, and the country's defense ministry.

Dismissal Follows Mafia Exposure

LD0304095293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 3 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat, 3 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Turkmenistan's Interior Minister Serdan Charyyarov has been released from his post. His resignation follows the exposure of a major mafia grouping which has been operating with impunity for several years.

With the militia's knowledge and protection the criminals were "forgiven" robberies, violence, and murders. "Loyalty" to the criminals was compensated by strictness toward innocent citizens, many of whom were subjected to unjustified searches, a wave of which hit the republic.

Given Job as Deputy Defense Minister

LD0304053193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] By decree of Turkmenistan President Sapurmurad Niyazov, Interior Minister Serdar Charyyarov and the chairman of the republic's state customs service, Mamed Kabayev, are released from their posts. The first has been removed due to what are called serious shortcomings in the work of Interior Ministry bodies, and the second for serious omissions in duties. However, the dismissed Charyyarov is getting a new job: deputy defense minister of Turkmenistan.

President Dismisses Deputy Defense Minister

LD0404102893 Ashgabat Radio Ashgabat Network in Turkmen 0200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] By decree of the president of Turkmenistan, Lieutenant General Korneytsev has been relieved of his duties as commander of special troops and deputy minister of defense of Turkmenistan.

Russian Troops Unhappy With Status in Turkmenistan

PM0204153193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Nikolay Burbyga on interview with Colonel of Justice Viktor Kruk; place and date not given: "Officers of 36th Corps Demand Withdrawal From Turkmenistan"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] A Russian Government delegation has returned from Ashgabat after discussing draft bilateral agreements on the implementation of the treaty "On Joint Measures in Connection With the Creation of Turkmenistan's Armed Forces." Colonel of Justice Viktor Kruk, a military expert with the delegation, told the paper that because of the Turkmen side's hard line it had unfortunately not been possible to reach agreement on the main questions connected with the creation of the Turkmenistan Armed Forces. The Russian servicemen's position is verging on the critical, the expert stated.

[Kruk] "The treaty 'On Joint Measures in Connection With the Creation of Turkmenistan's Armed Forces' was signed by the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan presidents last summer," Viktor Kruk said. "In accordance with it, the Turkmenistan Armed Forces are being created on the basis of formations and units of the former USSR Armed Forces stationed on Turkmenistan territory. So the backbone of the national army will be the formations and units of the 36th Army Corps, which will be under the operational leadership of a joint Russian-Turkmen command during the transitional period (set at five years). Although they are to be manned on a mixed basis—officers from the Russian Armed Forces, Turkmen privates and sergeants. But a number of questions specified in the treaty 'On Joint Measures in Connection With the Creation of Turkmenistan's Armed Forces' remain unresolved. This applies above all to the procedure for financing the national forces and providing logistical support and equipment. For example, Russia and Turkmenistan are supposed to share the cost of the upkeep of military formations. But for some reason Russia is carrying the entire burden. In 1992 our expenditure reached 4 billion rubles [R], while Turkmenistan paid only around R200 million....

"The mechanism for manning and training the forces and servicing and repairing the combat equipment has not yet been established, and the future of the missile units and the Caspian Flotilla remains uncertain. The problem of social and legal protection for Russian serviceman who are on the territory of sovereign Turkmenistan due to circumstances beyond their control is particularly bad."

[Burbyga] "What does this mean?"

[Kruk] "A Turkmenistan Defense Ministry order illegally discharged from active military service more than 180 Russian officers, mainly commanders of platoons and companies. It is officers of this category that Russia's internal districts are so badly short of, but the Defense Ministry has not reacted to these events....

"We know of cases where attempts have been made to discredit Russian servicemen, particularly officers, and represent them in a bad light. Turkmenistan National Security Committee structures have actively joined this campaign. Using their services' operational and technical potential, they are illegally entering the military units' territory and recording conversations between servicemen.

"Specially trained people are often used to arrange for Russian officers to receive so-called 'bribes' from Turkmen soldiers; they are then ambushed and have their apartments searched. In only the past five months 15 people have been arrested as a result of these 'efforts,' and they are being held at a detention center along with criminals. Our attempts to obtain information from the investigative bodies have failed. On 21 March family and friends of the arrested officers declared a hunger strike, demanding that they be transferred from the detention center to the guardhouse and the criminal cases referred to the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office.

"Russian servicemen in Turkmenistan are losing faith in the Russian authorities' ability to provide them with legal and social protection. Officers meetings have been held in all garrisons and military units to demand the withdrawal of Russian servicemen to Russian territory, or at least a clear definition of their status and the legal conditions governing their presence in a foreign state.

"During the talks all these questions were placed before the Turkmenistan military leadership. But while agreeing with our arguments, the local leaders did say that the existing situation suits them perfectly, alas."

Uzbekistan

Karimov, Turkey's Ozal Open Talks in Tashkent

TA0404191493 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Report by Mehmet Alkas from Tashkent]

[Text] President Turgut Ozal is in Tashkent, the first leg of his visit to the Central Asian Turkic republics. After Uzbekistan, the president will visit Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan.

President Ozal was received at Tashkent Airport by Uzbek President Islam Karimov. Also present at the welcoming ceremony were Supreme Soviet Chairman Shavkat Yuldashev and Prime Minister Abdulhashim Mutalov. Ozal and Karimov later held a joint news conference at the airport.

President Ozal said that he was very pleased to be in Uzbekistan. He pointed out that after Uzbekistan declared its independence in 1991, the relations between that country and Turkey developed as they should, given their historical ties. Ozal said that bilateral cooperation will further increase in the future, adding:

[Begin Ozal recording] Uzbekistan has taken great steps in the political and economic fields by consolidating its independence and restructuring all its institutions as a national state. I believe that, wisely guided by Mr. Karimov, these reforms will continue and that in this way, Uzbekistan—a very important country in the region—will reach the level of an advanced and developed country in all aspects. [end recording]

Karimov began his speech by expressing his pleasure at welcoming Ozal and his delegation in their ancestral home. Turkey's help played an important role in strengthening Uzbekistan's independence, he said, adding that President Ozal's visit will help develop the political and economic relations between the two countries.

Replying to reporters' questions, Ozal said that the 21st century will be the century of the Turkish people, but that to bring this about, a lot of work must be done. He pointed out that the obstacles among the Turkic states have been eliminated, adding: I am looking to the future with optimism. We must work as brothers as much as we can toward this goal.

Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin was also present at the news conference.

Later, Ozal met with Karimov at the state guest house. Before the meeting, Karimov dressed Ozal in an Uzbek national costume. He also gave Ozal a carpet and plate with Ozal's picture on them. The two men then held a private meeting, closed to the press.

Meanwhile, the official talks between the two countries and the business council meeting also started in Tashkent.

Ozal: No Armed Intervention in Karabakh

LD0504115693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Baranov]

[Text] Tashkent April 5 TASS—Visiting Turkish President Turgut Ozal said his country would do everything possible to prevent further violence and bloodshed between Azerbaijan and Armenia, but ruled out any possible armed interference in order to settle the conflict.

Speaking at a press conference in Tashkent on Monday the president expressed deep concern over the latest escalation of combat activities between the two republics.

He said the local dispute about Nagorno-Karabakh had developed into a conflict which is close to an open war between the neighbouring peoples. Turkey will use all its possibilities to promote a just settlement of the problem, Ozal said.

Leaders Hold News Conference

LD0504124993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Baranov]

[Text] Tashkent April 5 TASS—"We shall always be with our Uzbek brothers at all times," said Turkish President Turgut Ozal at a joint news conference held by the Turkish and Uzbek leaders on Monday [5 April].

He was satisfied with the results of the present official visit, calling his meetings and talks with President Islam Karimov very fruitful. According to Ozal, the talks revealed full mutual understanding and identity of views on many changes in the world, including the Central Asian region.

"Relations between Turkey and Uzbekistan, a powerful Central Asian state, are successfully developing to the mutual benefit of the two nations and serve the cause of strengthening stability in the entire region," he stressed.

As a result of the visit by the Turkish state delegation to Uzbekistan, the sides signed bilateral documents on Monday: on mutual protection of businessmen and firm order of taxation precluding double taxation, as well as on joint measures to step up struggle against terrorism, illegal trafficking of arms and narcotics.

Karimov, Malaysian Prime Minister Discuss Trade

BK0204113893 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Malaysia's efforts in developing new trading partners among the developing nations of the south aggressively pursued over the past several years have proven to be successful. This was stated by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed at a joint news conference with Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov in Tashkent.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said so far Malaysia has been very successful in its new trade relations with Latin American countries, some countries in Africa, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. All want to look at the newly independent countries in Central Asia as belonging to the same group of developing countries with great trade and economic potential. Therefore, it is good for Malaysia to develop trade relations with these countries. Malaysia, being a small country, [words indistinct] of the countries of the south, help one another so that they would be less dependent on the major powers of the world.

In the past Malaysia's trading partners had always been the rich countries of the north like Japan, Europe and the United States. However, it now discovers that they, too, can have economic problems which in turn affect the size of Malaysia's trade. As such, it is necessary for Malaysia to develop new trading partners among the developing countries of the south.

On Uzbekistan and Malaysia's bilateral relations, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said it was his belief that both countries have certain potentials which could be developed for their mutual benefit if they were to work together. The prime minister is concluding his three-day official visit to the Central Asian republic.

Meanwhile, President Karimov said his country was only too happy to work together with Malaysia, which he described as the fastest growing economy in the South-east Asian region. He said he personally had a very high regard for Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir whom he considered not only a great politician but also a brilliant economist.

Establish Joint Commission

BK0104141293 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Malaysia and Uzbekistan have agreed to establish a joint commission to oversee the implementation of joint agreements between the two countries and to indentify new areas of cooperation which can be further established. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and members of his delegation with the Uzbekistan representatives headed by the country's prime minister, Mr. Abdulhashim Mutalov.

The deputy secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Datuk Halim Ali, said the two sides also agreed to set up trade and economic representatives in their respective countries to further improve bilateral trade and economic relations.

Dr. Mahathir reiterated Malaysia's desire to cooperate with the former Soviet republic in an effort to improve the country's economic situation for mutual benefit.

Government, Pakistan Sign Trade Missions Accord

LD0204101493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed an agreement on exchanging trade missions. The Uzbek mission will operate in Karachi, while Pakistan will open a similar establishment of its own in Tashkent. Both countries have decided to look at the possibility of laying a pipeline for Pakistan to receive natural gas from Uzbekistan, and to exchange delegations to expand their contacts in various fields.

The agreement was signed by Muradbek Rustambekov, Uzbekistan's deputy minister for foreign economic links, and Asif Ahmad Ali, Pakistan's minister of state for economic affairs and finance.

Armenia

Kelbadzhar Falls; Second Corridor to Karabakh Said Opened

NC0304175893 Paris AFP in English 1710 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Report by Martine Nouaille]

[Text] Moscow, April 3 (AFP)—Armenian forces said Saturday they had pushed through a second corridor to the disputed Nagorno- Karabakh enclave, as thousands of civilians remained trapped by fighting in the region.

If confirmed, the new corridor would prove a major breakthrough in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Muslim [as received] Armenian-dominated enclave, which lies within Azeri territory.

Separately, an Azeri military spokesman said some 200 people, 150 of them civilians, had been killed in the latest attacks on the strategic town of Kelbadzhar, target of a week-long Armenian offensive in the region.

The military command in the Armenian-dominated enclave said a road linking Vardenis in Armenia and Mardakert in Nagorno-Karabakh was under the control of Armenian forces.

The first corridor linking Goris in Armenia through the Azeri town of Lachin and on to the main town of Stepanakert in Nagorno- Karabakh was opened a year ago and has enabled Armenian forces to secure control over Stepanakert.

The military command in Nagorno-Karabakh also repeated Saturday a claim that its forces had captured the strategic town of Kelbadzhar, a claim it made Friday, although Azeri authorities maintained that they still controlled it.

The loss of Kelbadzhar would be a major defeat for Azerbaijan in the five-year-old undeclared war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the enclave.

The presidential press service in Baku said the town had been deserted by its inhabitants, but insisted that Azeri forces were continuing to defend it, with particularly intense fighting to the north of the town. The press service said about 60 Azeri villages in the area were surrounded by Armenian forces, and that at least 200 people had been killed and 200 others wounded in the Armenian offensive on Kelbadzhar.

Azeri presidential spokesman Mekhman Aliyev told AFP by telephone from Baku that 150 of those killed were civilians, while he said there was no knowledge of some 2,000 troops and 2,000 civilians trapped to the south of the town.

About 28,000 people have been evacuated by helicopter out of a total 60,000 in Kelbadzhar and several thousand have managed to escape through mountain passes, Baku authorities have said.

Separately Armenian forces Saturday reported an Azeri offensive further to the south, near the Lachin corridor. Other clashes between Armenian and Azeri forces were reported around the town of Fizuli in southern Nagorno-Karabakh.

On Friday, Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey declared a state of emergency in all of Azerbaijan "in response to the Armenian aggression." He called on U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to impose sanctions on Armenia.

At least 4,000 people have died in the fighting over Nagorno- Karabakh, the longest-running conflict in the former Soviet Union.

In another development, in Ankara Saturday, Turkish government sources said the country had suspended transit of western humanitarian aid for Armenia. The development came after Turkey's foreign minister Hikmet Cetin, who had urged the United States to intervene, protested to Yerevan about the escalation of the Armenian offensive, according to ministry sources. As well as suspending authorization for humanitarian aid across Turkey, government sources said Ankara could also block wheat supplies to Armenia in the next few days.

[Paris AFP in English at 1755 GMT on 3 April carries a Baku- datelined report that adds the following: "The Azeri defence ministry confirmed Saturday that the strategic town of Kelbadzhar and the area surrounding it had fallen to Armenian forces. The town, the target of a week-long offensive by Armenian forces, fell to the Armenians at 0800 GMT, the ministry said. Four hours later the whole region was under Armenian control, it said."]

Yerevan Refutes Azerbaijani Claims, Updates Fighting

NC0304161093 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's leaders and mass media have claimed that the Armenian self-defense forces have captured the fire emplacements in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon during the past few days. Obviously, the enemy has continued to distort the facts in order to create a sympathetic view of Azerbaijan in the world. In fact, the neighboring Republic has made an effort to describe Armenia as an aggressor country.

However, the truth is that the NKR self-defense forces have made an effort to silence the positions in that rayon, which have fired incessantly on NKR's residential areas. Dozens of people have been killed or wounded as

a result of the fire from those positions in the past. Numerous buildings and vital installations have been razed to the ground. The Armenian side made several appeals to Azerbaijan to urge it to agree to end the mass murders and move to hold talks. Regrettably, however, Azerbaijan's officials ignored them and continued their acts of genocide.

The NKR self-defense forces maintained their counterattacks and occupied several positions in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon, which fired on the Armenian positions and residential areas, on the night of 1 April. Azerbaijan's military units have been unable to resist against the Armenian attacks. Consequently, they have begun to retreat. [passage indistinct]

Tension in the entire front line in Nagorno-Karabakh has significantly escalated. The Azerbaijan National Army units made an effort to attack Uriyan Height in Martuninskiy Rayon yesterday morning. The rayon's self-defense forces repelled the attack. We have not received any accurate information on the casualties of the two sides. Meanwhile, Karmishuka and Shefek in Martuninskiy Rayon were fired on from the military positions in Fizulinskiy Rayon and the situation in Mardakertskiy Rayon's front line worsened. The NKR freedom fighters maintained their control on the strategically important heights and the residential areas they have liberated from enemy occupation. Furthermore, they continued to fight in the direction of Mardakert. According to the information we received yesterday, positional fighting is now taking place in that area.

Azerbaijan's attacks on the humanitarian corridor in Lachinskiy Rayon have also been obstructed. The NKR self-defense forces launched counterattacks to defend the corridor that links Nagorno- Karabakh with the outside world. Unable to resist against the counterattacks, Azerbaijan's military units have begun to retreat from the battle fronts. [passage indistinct]

The information Azerbaijan has disseminated in connection with the casualties among the peaceful people in Kelbadzharskiy and Lachinskiy Rayons is unfounded.

Tension continued to prevail in the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. However, the situation has been relatively peaceful. [placename indistinct] in Idzhevanskiy Rayon was shelled from Azerbaijan with tanks and heavy artillery on 1 April. Two peaceful citizens were wounded in the attack. Meanwhile, Vakhan in Krasnoselskiy Rayon was also shelled by artillery. One of the residents of the town was wounded. The Armenian side returned the fire in all cases.

Defense Spokesman Denies Reports of Kelbadzhar Offensive

OW0204140493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview to Interfax Armen Dulyan, chief of the Armenian Defense Ministry press office, denied the Baku report of an Armenian offensive on Kelbadzhar and involvement of Russian troops in the fighting on the Armenian side. He insisted that all the fighting is done by Karabakh units which repelled the Azerbaijani offensive aimed at cutting the Lachin corridor and surrounded Azerbaijani units inside Kelbadzhar district.

Scores of Azerbaijani soldiers, Dulyan said, surrendered voluntarily.

Dulyan emphasized that if the Lachin corridor which links Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia is cut, then Karabakh "will be dead within two months."

President Appeals to Karabakh Leader To Stop Fighting

LD0304135093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] There are a few more reports in our newscast. One of them is from Yerevan:

Armenia's President Levon-Petrosyan has sent an appeal to Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the State Committee for the State Defense of Nagorno-Karabakh. The sharp worsening of the situation in the region in connection with the escalation of combat operations between Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh republic is the cause of the appeal.

The appeal says that this fact could stand in the way of peace talks scheduled within the framework of the CSCE. Ter-Petrosyan called on the sides in the conflict to immediately cease combat operations and to sit down at the negotiating table.

In turn, Kocharyan again confirmed Karabakh's readiness to sit at the peace negotiating table, which has been proposed repeatedly to the Azerbaijani side, but it does not agree to do so. We are forced to give a rebuff and to destroy the Azerbaijan Army's military base on the Nagorno-Karabakh republic's territory which represents a threat to the republic, Kocheryan stated.

That was a report by the IPRINDA agency.

Karabakh Leader 'Ready' To Talk

NC0304165993 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 3 Apr 93

["Reply" from Robert Kocharyan, head of the State Defense Committee of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, to Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan; date not given]

[Text] Esteemed President, in reply to your 1 April appeal I state the following:

For months now we have been formally affirming our readiness to establish a cease-fire immediately and unconditionally. However, our constructive efforts have been

aborted by Azerbaijan's militaristic policy and the uncertainty involving the status of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [NKR] participation in the Minsk conference.

We are convinced that the talks being conducted within the framework of the CSCE are being exploited by Azerbaijan to cover up its militaristic programs and its aspirations to resolve the Karabakh problem with force. This is evinced by the large-scale offensives launched by Azerbaijan in March in Mardakertskiy Rayon and against the Lachin humanitarian corridor.

As was noted in my declaration on 31 March, in reply to such offensives the NKR authorities had no choice but to make use of their natural right to self-defense and destroy the military bases posing a threat to us.

The NKR has no intention of occupying lands from Azerbaijan, but on the other hand it cannot but react to the threatening dangers. Despite that, we are ready to immediately sit at the negotiating table for the purpose of terminating the military operations if a similar readiness is also displayed by the opponent.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Confirms Kelbadzhar Taken by Armenians

OW0404134493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1252 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has confirmed the reports about the seizure of Azerbaijan's regional center of Kelbadzhar by Armenian formations.

On Monday [as received], this source informed Interfax that the Kelbadzhar region had been completely cut off from Azerbaijan. The fate of the 15,000 encircled people is unknown.

The Azerbaijani Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov told reporters on Saturday, that according to his sources, the offensive on Kelbadzhar involved units of Russia's 7th army located in Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani Interior Ministry reports that over the past few days, about 150 residents of the Kelbadzhar region have died as a result of the Armenian offensive and of unexpected frosts.

CAPTURE OF KELBADZHAR IS A RESULT OF COUNTER-ATTACK DESIGNED TO DRIVE THE AZERIS AWAY FROM LACHIN CORRIDOR

Nagorno-Karabakh's envoy in Armenia, Manvel Sarkisian, has said that the capture of Kelbadzhar, an administrative center in Azerbaijan, by the Karabakh forces is a result of the counter-attack designed to drive the Azeris away from the Lachin corridor which links Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia.

When carrying out the operation the Karabakh forces did all they could not to hurt civilians, Sarkisian told Interfax on Sunday [4 April]. The Karabakh forces left a corridor for evacuating the civilian population, he said.

The opening of another corridor from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia across Kelbadzhar District is out of the question, said Sarkisian. "This is nothing but measures designed to ensure the safe functioning of the Lachin corridor," he said.

In the meantime Armen Dulian, who is in charge of the press service of Armenia's Defence Ministry, said that the opening of another corridor between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia across Kelbadzhar District in Azerbaijan would be "justified." However the Karabakh forces which captured Kelbadzhar have not reached Armenia's border yet, he said.

Azerbaijan's army is now engaged in a large-scale offensive in the south of the Lachin corridor, Dulian said.

President Issues State of Emergency

NC0204211893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Decree issued by Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey in Baku on 2 April—read by announcer]

[Text] A serious situation has been created in Azerbaijan as a result of the gradually broadening aggression of the Armenian Armed Forces against the Republic's rayons on Armenia's border and several other rayons. A large part of Azerbaijan's territory is occupied by the enemy at the present time. The well-prepared enemy forces, which have been armed with modern weapons, are gradually broadening the war zone and threatening the peaceful people. This state of affairs has created tension in the republic's political and economic domains. Azerbaijan's statehood is being threatened.

Considering the gravity of the existing situation, my personal responsibility to the citizens of the Republic, and the possible outcome of the decisions I adopt, and acting in the light of Article 121 of the Constitution, Clause 4, Paragraph 16, and the Republic's Law on the State of Emergency:

1. I decree the introduction of a state of emergency in the entire territory of Azerbaijan for 60 days.

2. The following measures will be taken during the stat of emergency:

Freedom of movement will be subjected to special rules; measures will be taken to strengthen the protection of the social order, people, and operation of vital economic installations; rallies, meetings, marches, demonstrations, and other mass activities will be banned; strikes will be banned; movement of transportation vehicles will be restricted; vehicles will be searched; a curfew will be imposed; appearance on streets and other social places

without special permits and identity documents at certain times of the day will be banned; freedom of the press and other mass media will be censored; functions of political parties, social organizations, and mass movements, which create a serious obstacle for the normalization of the situation, will be suspended after appropriate notices are given; documents will be checked in places where citizens congregate; citizens, including their property and vehicles, will be searched in exceptional cases if there is information that they are carrying arms; possession, procurement, and the sale of arms, toxic substances, explosives and military equipment will be restricted or banned; firearms, cold weapons [as heard], military equipment, toxic substances, and explosives will be temporarily confiscated from citizens; [word indistinct], military equipment, and radioactive substances will be temporarily confiscated from establishments, administrations, and organizations; individuals, who are not residents of the rayons in which military operations take place, will be moved out from the borders of those rayons; citizens will be temporarily moved from unsafe rayons and resettled in tents or temporary housing facilities; measures will be taken to impose quarantine and other sanitary rules; measures will be taken against epidemics and [word indistinct]; reserve personnel in state and other establishments, administrations, and organizations will be mobilized and their work schedules will be changed to channel their effort toward the production of essential products under the state of emergency regime; other changes will be made for essential requirements in defense and restoration work; and special rules will be put into effect to use [word indistinct].

3. These measures will be imposed in either various parts of Azerbaijan, or in the entire Republic. The Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense will be assigned the task of realizing them.

4. The Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense will be instructed to submit the list of the rayon and city military commandants to the president to be approved within 24 hours.

5. The military commandants will be held responsible for the imposition of the state of emergency regime in Azerbaijan's cities and rayons.

6. The Azerbaijan Council of Ministers will be instructed to take the necessary measures for the adoption of work conditions in the Republic's economic domain in accordance with the requirements of the state of emergency regime.

7. The Azerbaijan National Assembly is asked to approve this decree in 24 hours and inform the UN secretary general on the reasons for the declaration of a state of emergency regime in Azerbaijan.

8. This decree will be put into effect as of 0600 on 3 April 1993.

[Signed] Abulfaz Elchibey, president of Azerbaijan

[Dated] Baku, 2 April 1993

National Assembly Approves Decree

NC0204213093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan National Assembly held a session in camera today. The meeting heard a report by the defense minister on the latest incidents in Kel'badzhar and other areas in which fighting is taking place as a result of Armenia's occupationist war. President Elchibey addressed the National Assembly on the need for the declaration of a state of emergency in Azerbaijan and the additions to be made to the Constitution in that regard. Later, draft bills were submitted to be debated by the deputies. The people's deputies stressed in their debate that the declaration of a state of emergency, under the extremely tense conditions in the Republic, is essential. The deputies voted to approve the bill on the changes to the Constitution, the bill on the additions to be made in the Law on the State of Emergency, and the president's declaration of a state of emergency in the Republic.

Elchibey Conveys Letter to Clinton, Yeltsin on Fighting

NC0304084093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] President Elchibey has addressed a letter to Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin. He informed them that the attacks by the powerful Armenian Armed Forces have threatened the lives of 60,000 people in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon and 32,000 people in Lachinskiy Rayon, who are under siege.

Elchibey met with the ambassadors of various countries to the Republic and informed them that although Azerbaijan is committed to democratic traditions, upholds the principle of peaceful coexistence, and is taking serious steps to safeguard human rights, the neighboring Republic maintains its aggression against it. Elchibey asked the ambassadors to inform the heads of state of their countries about what is really going on in Azerbaijan. He said he is confident that the democratic countries will condemn Armenia's aggression and that effective and resolute steps will be taken at the international level to block the attacks.

Appeals to Iran, Turkey, Russia, U.S.

LD0204155093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 2 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Speaking on national television on 1 April, Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey admitted that the Azerbaijani Armed Forces are continuing to retreat in the zone of combat actions. Azerbaijan has addressed

Iran, Turkey, Russia, and the United States with a request to take measures to stop the Armenian offensive in the border rayons.

Defense Minister: Russians Helping Armenians in Kelbadzhar

NC0204142693 Baku TURAN in English 1135 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Baku, 2 April (TURAN)—Minister of Defence Major-General Dadash Rzayev conducted today briefing for representatives of foreign delegations, accredited in Baku. Diplomats were officially announced at the briefing that the 7th Russian Army, located at the territory of Armenia, takes an active part in the attack of Armenian on Kelbadzhar. By the words of the minister of defence, Azerbaijani side has proofs, confirm this fact.

It was also marked that attack on Kelbadzhar is continued from the side of Armenia as well as from Nagorno-Karabakh. At present time 23,000 people are taken out of the fire. The fate of about 40,000 citizens of Kelbadzhar is unknown.

Baku Commandant Appeals for Calm

LD0404154693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The capital of Azerbaijan, like the republic's other towns and rayons, is beginning to live according to the laws of the state of emergency imposed by President Abulfaz Elchibey's decree from yesterday throughout the territory of Azerbaijan. Today, military patrols appeared on the streets of Baku and national television programs were interrupted several times for an address to be broadcast to the population of Baku by Major general of Police (Abdulla Allakhverdiyev), the city's military commandant. Appealing to the people of Baku to maintain calm, he stated that the city commandant's office is making every effort to ensure order and that enterprises and organizations are functioning normally.

Official Says Army Must Save 15,000 People in Kelbadzhar

OW0404155193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An Azerbaijani defense ministry spokesman has said that there is nothing more important for his army today than to save 15 thousand civilians trapped in the south of the Kelbadzhar region to prevent the repetition of the tragedy in Khojaly in February of last year when about a thousand people were killed, wounded, or declared missing, following the seizure of that Karabakh town by Armenians.

The ministry reported with reference to preliminary figures that about 40,000 people had been evacuated from the beleaguered region.

Officials in Baku emphasize that Kelbadzhar has been occupied by Armenians, advancing from the Vardeniss area in Armenia. The mission of Karabakh troops was exclusively supportive.

By reports from Baku, since 27 March, Armenian units have occupied in western Azerbaijan a territory equal to that of Nagorno- Karabakh. This means that Armenia controls about 10 percent of Azerbaijan's territory.

A number of Azerbaijani political organizations, the Popular Front among them, have urged their activists to vounteer for battalions to be dispatched to the zone of fighting.

Meanwhile, the state of emergecy has been in effect in Azerbaijan for the 2 day after its imposition for two months by President Abulfaz Elchibey. However, a curfew has not been declared in Baku yet.

The Presidential decree also curtails the freedom of movement, requires special travel documents, and calls for better protection of key installations. It bans meetings, demonstrations, street processions and strikes, restricts the freedom of speech, introduces special rules for the use of communication facilities. The possession, acquisition, and storage of arms is prohibited. Outsiders are barred from the areas of fighting. If necessary, civilians must be moved out of combat zones. All labour and food resources must be mobilized to produce what is vital for the state.

Failure To Obey Orders Blamed for Fall of Kelbadzhar

NC0404184793 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 4 Apr 93

["Text" of statement issued by the Azerbaijani Presidential Press Service on 4 April; read by announcer]

[Text] Azerbaijani military units withdrew from Kelbadzhar and retreated toward the [name indistinct] foothills yesterday. The city fell to the Armenian Armed Forces, which attacked from Armenia's Vardenisskiy Rayon. The Azerbaijani Government used every opportunity to evacuate the residents of the besieged towns from the combat zones to prevent acts of violence similar to those committed by the ferocious Armenian military units in Khodzhaly. Nearly 40,000 people were moved from the region and the threat of a new act of genocide was obstructed in three days.

The main reason for Kelbadzhar's surrender to the enemy was the failure of the troops to comply with the command headquarters' order to defend the city. They abandoned their positions without waiting for reinforcements to arrive. Regardless of how (?regretful) this may be, we are unable to conceal the truth from the people.

The incident in Kelbadzhar has indicated that the level of morale and military preparedness is very low. Due to the absence of [word indistinct], troops failed to carry out orders and communications among the military

units were disrupted. This caused the rayon's defense system to collapse. Another reason for our defeat in Kelbadzhar was the failure to get the military units organized in the form of an army. Azerbaijan [words indistinct] and serious measures have been taken to establish an army. It has been stressed several times that the effort made by certain political forces and newspapers to describe the misfortunes in the battlefronts as treachery and as the outcome of a power struggle is a dangerous tendency. It was impossible for this to fail to have adverse psychological effects on the Armed Forces.

The main task is to establish discipline in the Armed Forces. Those who have abandoned the battlefields will be severely punished and measures complying with the stipulations of the state of emergency regime will be taken against those who [words indistinct] and circulate rumors.

We urge all the citizens on such a grave day for our homeland to maintain [word indistinct], a high spirit, and [word indistinct]. The future of our state depends on all of us.

Armenians Attack Fizuli; Kelbadzhar Being Evacuated

OW0504114293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Following the capture of Kelbadzhar, a district center inside Azerbaijan, last Friday the Armenian militias have stepped up their pressure on Fizuli, the center of a district bordering on Karabakh. A spokesman of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry told Interfax that at 9 a.m. April 5 the fighting went on within two kms from the town. Armenians have captured six villages in the district and a height overseeing the town from which the town is now shelled by artillery and Grad multiple launchers. Over 20 civilians have reportedly been killed and extensive damage done.

Meanwhile, in Kelbadzhar and Lachin districts that have been captured by Armenians the Azerbaijani army is trying to evacuate over 15,000 villagers. Because of the ground fire and heavy fog all attempts to take them by helicopters have failed. Measures are now being taken to drop food and medicines from helicopters in villages surrounded by Armenian forces.

Baku Urges International Evaluation of Armenian Aggression

OW0504114593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azerbaijani leadership has called upon the heads of states, governments, and parliaments throughout the world, the UN, the CSCE, the Islamic Conference, and other influential international organizations to quickly evaluate Armenia's aggressive actions.

A statement issued by the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Sunday [4 April] evening claims that "Armenia's attack on Azerbaijan and the broadening of the occupation zone within the borders of Nagorno- Karabakh mean that the nature of the war has changed somewhat, and it has entered an especially dangerous phase."

"The unpunished aggression and the lack of a fitting response from international organizations could lead to a destabilization of the world and Transcaucasia and trigger a major war which could spread to the entire world," warns the document.

The press service of the Azerbaijani president stated that the main reason Azerbaijani forces retreated in the Kelbadzhar Region was that reinforcements did not come in time. In addition, some divisions did not obey their orders to defend the city.

The press service warned that "military personnel who do not obey the orders of their commanders will be seriously punished." Regarding persons who create a panic, the press service claimed, "measures will be taken according to the law on the state of emergency."

Eyewitnesses Accuse Armenians of Atrocities in Kelbadzhar

LD0504111293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 5 Apr 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in Kelbadzhar district of Azerbaijan remains extremely complicated. By yesterday the Armenian Armed Forces had occupied the district and seized its center, Kelbadzhar. Armenian troops have advanced to the Murovdag hills across which civilians were fleeing from the fighting.

According to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, about 40,000 inhabitants have been evacuated in the seven days since the aggression began. However, over 15,000 people are still surrounded. Refugees who have managed to escape the encirclement are saying that Armenian soldiers are burning villages and killing local inhabitants and captive Azerbaijani Army soldiers.

As a result of the offensive Armenia has overrun more than 1,000 square kilometers of Azerbaijani territory.

Isa Gambarov, speaker of the Azerbaijani parliament, described the Armenian offensive in Kelbadzhar district as a tragic development of events. He called it aggression by Armenia. He was speaking when he received a delegation of U.S. Congressmen, headed by Democratic Congressman Richard Lehman.

The capital of Azerbaijan and other cities and districts in the republic are beginning to feel the effect of the state of the

emergency which was imposed on the whole of Azerbaijan by decree of President Abulfaz Elchibey on 3 April.

The Republic of Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry also issued a statement yesterday. It says, among other things, that the policy of leading world states in holding both the aggressor and the victim equally to blame for the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is encouraging the Republic of Armenia in the belief that it can get away with what it is doing and providing it with an incentive to carry out fresh acts of aggression and to seize still more Azerbaijani territory.

Elchibey Calls For Early Elections, Views Other Issues

OW0204163393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his televised address to the nation on Thursday [1 April], Abulfaz Elchibey called for early parliamentary elections in the republic. "Until we have held legitimate elections," he emphasized, "the republic will still be suffering from the vacuum of powers." President Elchibey said he was going to address the parliament one of these days asking the deputies to expedite adoption of the law on elections and set the date for them. In his opinion, the most desirable time for the elections would be late September or early October. However, if the military, political and economic situation in the republic permit, the elections may be held as early as in June, Elchibey indicated.

The president observed that the situation in the republic had become more complicated in the recent days due to the Armenian offensive operations, which are split in four directions in Kilbajar Region. "The interior and defense ministries are doing everything possible to unblock the region," Elchibey assured the deputies.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: During his meeting Thursday with the diplomats accredited in Baku, Elchibey informed them of the situation in the Kilbajar Region after the Armenian army launched its offensive. In his words, Kilbajar Region has been completely cut off and there is pending danger of genocide of the peaceful population far exceeding that in Khojaly. (The town of Khojaly in Nagorno-Karabakh with a predominantly Azeri population was captured by Armenian armed formations in late February, 1992. A great number of the civilian population, including old persons, women and children lost their lives as a result of the Armenian onslaught - IF.) The president branded the Armenian attack as state terrorism and genocide of the Azerbaijani population.

In characterizing the recent steps taken by the Azerbaijanian government in the sphere of promoting its statehood, the president acknowledged that the country has succeeded in setting up some new structures which the republic never had before although they are indispensable prerequisites of any independent state—national armed forces, border guard troops, the customs department, etc. In the words of President Elchibey, Azerbaijan was among the first former Soviet Union republics to set up a force capable of defending its borders. The president emphasized that the process of withdrawing Russian border guard troops was carried out "in a civilized manner," withdrawal of the remaining forces continuing. "We have never had any frictions with Russia in this regard," he said.

Commenting on Azerbaijan's financial policy, Elchibey observed that the republic's adoption of its own legal tender—the manat—was excellently timed. In his words, the standards of living in Azerbaijan, in spite of the external aggression, are not lower than those in the other republics of the former Soviet Union. Democratic processes are gaining momentum, he said, noting that the state is increasing assistance to national minorities and ethnic groups.

The president emphasized that international financial structures, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in particular, are appreciative of Azerbaijan's economic potential and the progress it has made in its economic reform. Only the ongoing warfare prevents the republic from obtaining Western investments, he said.

President Elchibey pointed to the importance of the republic's recent accord with Turkey to build an oil pipeline to connect Azerbaijan with Turkey. This pipeline will serve to supply Azerbaijani oil to the West European markets.

The president characterized as "especially sensitive" the issue of relations between the press and separate political leaders and organizations. He expressed regret that "there is no mechanism of protection of the honor and dignity of the Azerbaijani people from the most disparaging allegations in some of the republic's press publications, which hardly know the difference between criticism and insults." The president asked the journalists "not to allow any humiliating offenses with respect to the citizens in order to avoid a tragedy." Elchibey said he was ready to meet halfway the demands of the oppositional Party of Azerbaijan's National Independence and, should the deputies express such an aspiration, give account to the parliament for his activities as president for the last 10 months (in April) or a year (in June).

IF Note: Elchibey was elected president on June 7, 1992.

Georgia

Defense Ministry Protests Russian Role in Sukhumi Events

OW0204135693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Defense Ministry expressed protest to the Russian Defense Ministry "with whose assistance and under whose cover military operations are carried out against the peaceful population of Sukhumi", against the shelling and bombardment of Sukhumi by Abkhazians on Thursday [1 April] "with the support of the Russian troops". As a result of that barbaric action, 8 people were killed and 12 were wounded. The Georgian air-defense forces opened return fire and damaged a SU-25 bomber.

The Georgian Defense Ministry urged the Russian government to stop combat operations, aimed at the systematic destruction of Sukhumi and organized under the protection of the Russian armed forces' tactical grouping in Gudauta. Tbilisi qualifies these actions as a "real threat to relations between the two neighboring states".

The statement also says that the Georgian armed forces have combat equipment which can destroy Gudauta. "But we have abstained from using it to save the lives of civilians, including the families of the Russian servicemen living in this Abkhazian city".

Kitovani Says Forces To Shoot Down Attacking Russian Planes

OW0204134993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani stated that if Russian planes try to attack Sukhumi again they will be shot down by Georgian air defense forces. In an interview with Interfax on Friday [2 April], he said the missile attack on Sukhumi and on Georgian positions near the city by Su-25 Russian Air Force planes on April 1 was directed "at aggravating relations between the two states and [causing] a breakdown in Russian-Georgian negotiations." Kitovani said he agreed to meet with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in Sochi on April 6. At the meeting, the Georgian minister said, they plan to discuss preparations for a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze.

Kitovani said they would also discuss military problems. He claimed Grachev had agreed on the need to move Russian troops from the fighting zone in Abkhazia to other regions of Georgia.

The Georgian minister feels that the conflict in Abkhazia may be resolved only through peaceful means. He said the head of the Abkhazian parliament had avoided negotiations with the Georgian side. "Apparently, he is still hoping for Russian military help," said Kitovani.

Russian Defense Ministry Denies Shelling of Sukhumi

OW0504115293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One person was killed and six were injured in another shelling of Sukhumi the evening of April 4, announced the press service of the Georgian armed forces to INTERFAX. The person killed and two of the injured were Russian residents of Sukhumi.

The Russian Defense Ministry refuted reports from several Georgian sources that Sukhumi was shelled by artillery from Russian troops stationed in Abkhazia.

On the morning of April 5, according to the Abkhazian Defense Ministry, Georgians opened fire on Abkhazian positions near the Gumista River. A Russian Army seismic laboratory in the town of Nizhnyaya Esheri was also shelled.

Battles in the Ochamchira Region of Abkhazia continued throughout the past few days, but there were no positional changes. Sukhumi reports that two persons were killed and two injured on the Georgian side.

On Monday [5 April] morning, Gudauta reported, after artillery preparation Georgians attacked in the direction of the villages of Labra and Bedia. The attacks were fought off.

Army Command Criticizes Grachev Statement on Bombing

LD0304212693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Apr 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Correspondent N. Kandiashvili] The Second Army Corps of the Georgian Armed Forces circulated a statement today, criticizing the words of the Russian defense minister. His statement, carried by the Russian mass media, claimed that bombing was carried out to suppress Georgian fire positions that shelled the Eshery laboratory.

The statement from the Second Army Corps points out that the Russian Defense Ministry once again is trying to camouflage Russian aggression against Georgia, and to conceal the fact that the bomb strike on 1 April was directed at the area of the city populated by civilians, and resulted in three people being killed and another seven wounded, including four ethnic Russians.

The Command of the Second Army Corps is profoundly convinced that the statement from the Russian defense minister was aimed at preparing the public for a new round of aggression against Georgia. If this aggression is continued, Georgian troops will be forced to use all military means available to protect the lives of citizens and the territorial interests of the republic.

[Announcer] That report was quoted today by literally all the mass media.

Russian General Threatens Retaliation for Shelling

OW0204140093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the operative group of the Russian Army in Abkhazia Colonel-General Aleksey Alekseyev demanded that the Georgian armed forces command "once and for all" stop shelling Russian installations. If not, he warns in a memo to the Georgian government on Friday [2 April], "each shot will be answered with a crushing blow to all operating sources of fire."

Alekseyev urged Tbilisi not to take measures - especially forcible measures - to blockade and expel from Sukhumi the 901st Russian landing battalion, about which, he claimed, Georgian Defense Minister Tengi Kitovani had warned in an ultimatum in recent days. The general stressed that blockading the battalion would "lead to actions to lift the blockade."

Alekseyev said he could meet with representatives of the Georgian leadership, in Gudaut. Georgia took the initiative to arrange the meeting.

The Russian general also asked that Georgian powers immediately release Senior Lieutenant Aleksandr Sitnikov, who was arrested March 31 in Sukhumi, and "not aggravate relations, since there are not and cannot be any sound and significant reasons for his arrest."

Tbilisi claims the Russian officer was arrested while collecting reconnaissance information.

Meanwhile, Alekseyev said that on evening of April 1, Georgian air forces shelled a Russian military laboratory in the town of Nizhnyaya Esheri and destroyed two artillery batteries, one Grad launcher, three tanks, and a command-observation point. They did not attack peaceful towns, said the general in an interview with journalists in Gudaut.

Alekseyev explained that four SU-25 fighter planes were used, rather than two, as was explained earlier.

Parliament Appeals to World Over Abkhaz 'Ethnic Cleansing'

PM0504155993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Apr 93 First Edition p 2

[Besik Urigashvili: "Georgian Parliament Has Accused Abkhaz Side of Ethnic Cleansing"]

[Text] The Georgian parliament has adopted an appeal to the United Nations, the CSCE, and international human rights organizations in which it accuses Abkhaz separatists and Russian military stationed in Abkhazia of ethnic cleansing against the Georgian population living in the territory which the Gudauta Abkhaz leadership controls.

The appeal says that the violence and oppression to which the Georgian population is being subjected in the territory controlled by the Abkhaz side is forcing people to abandon their homes, and the actions of separatists are, with connivance of the Russian troops stationed their, more and more often taking the form of genocide. The Georgian parliament holds Russia responsible for such actions, judging what has happened to be a continuation of its imperialist policy.

The Georgian parliament also adopted a special decree which obliges the country's National Security and Defense Council to create a special commission for evacuating people living in the zone under Abkhaz control to safe regions. It was for this very purpose that Aleksandr Kavsadze, chairman of the State Committee on Human Rights and International Relations, arrived in Sukhumi intending to meet with the Abkhaz leaders in Gudauta and to really get to grips with questions concerning the evacuation of the civilian population from these regions.

According to information from various sources, repressive actions against Georgians living in the zone under Abkhaz control intensified particularly after unsuccessful storming of Sukhumi 16-17 March, and have become menacing in the last few days. The lives of those people whose relatives are fighting in the Georgian Armed Forces are in particular danger. Representatives of Georgian military intelligence claim that physical reprisals against these people has become an everyday occurrence. The Georgian leaders are also attempting to speed up the evacuation as they fear reprisal attacks on the Abkhaz who remain in the zone under Georgian control by relatives of those who, according to rumors from Gagra, Gudauta, and Tkvarcheli, have met violent deaths.

Abkhazian Attack on Power Plant Repulsed

OW0404135593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1253 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interfax's correspondent has learned from the press center of Georgia's Defence Ministry that Saturday [3 April] evening Abkhazian saboteurs attacked Sukhumi's power plant. The attack was repulsed. During the fighting three Georgian servicemen were killed and several wounded. The Abkhazians also sustained losses. According to the data available to Tbilisi, the Georgians seized from the attackers 6 submachine guns, a dozen of hand grenades and explosives.

Abkhazians Suppress Georgian Offensive Against Labra

LD0504103293 Moscow ITAR-TASS IN English 0956 GMT 5 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Schegoleva]

[Text] Sochi April 5 TASS—Georgian infantry supported by armoured vehicles attacked the village of Labra early on Monday, but Abkhazian guerrillas forced it to retreat, according to reports from Abkhazia.

Also on Monday Georgian forces intensively shelled Abkhazian strongholds and the Russian military laboratory in Eshery.

Foreigners Fighting in Abkhaz War; 12 Turks Killed

AU0304165993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] As the IBERIA information agency has reported, in spite of denials by the Abkhaz side that it is using foreign hired mercenaries in the war, increasingly more Turkish and Syrian citizens are taking part in the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict.

Already 12 mercenaries of Turkish nationality have died in this war.

Agreement Reached in Sukhumi on POW Exchange

OW0304105493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1035 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A special commission of the Georgian parliament and Abkhazian representatives have reached an agreement in Sukhumi on the exchange of war prisoners, the head of the Georgian commission, Aleksandr Kavsadze, chairman of the parliamentary Committee for Ethnic Relations and Human Rights, told INTERFAX on Friday [2 April].

He said special groups had been formed to survey the status of the civilian population in areas controlled by the Georgians and Abkhazians.

Apart form this, the Georgian and Abkhazian officials discussed ways of evacuating Abkhazians from Georgian-controlled Sukhumi and Georgians from Abkhazian-controlled Gudauta and Gagra Districts. Lists of those wishing to leave are to be ready in four or five days' time. It is planned to evacuate about 300 people on each side.

Earlier on, Kavsadze said the chairman of the Abkhazian parliament, Vladislav Ardzinba, in a telephone conversation on Thursday had refused to have any talks with the Georgians before their army left Abkhazia.

Meanwhile, the Abkhazian Defense Ministry said the Georgians were amassing considerable forces in the vicinity of Sukhumi, planning a thrust towards Esheri and Novy Afon.

According to the ministry, over the past 24 hours the Abkhazians and Georgians have been intensively shelling each other along the Gumista River.

Fighting was also going on near the villages of Labra, Merkula, and Belsakhuba in Ochamchira District, the ministry said.

Shevardnadze Sees Positive Results From U.S.-Russian Summit

OW0504114093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1102 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze stated that the meeting between Yeltsin and Clinton in Vancouver confirmed his hopes. "There was serious discussion" of the Abkhazian conflict at the summit, he said in his regular Monday radio interview. "I think the results of the meeting in Vancouver will be positive both for Russia and for its neighboring states," he claimed. Shevardnadze said that during the prelude to the Vancouver meeting the Georgian leadership "made certain contact with the U.S. administration" in an attempt to acquaint the U.S. powers with the developments in the Caucasus and Transcaucasus and with "what kind of policy Russia has here."

Shevardnadze said he felt that the Russian-Georgian negotiations planned for April 6 in Sochi "could be effective," since both sides are interested in this.

The Georgian leader said his meeting with Russian President Yeltsin was "inevitable."

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Relations With Russia

LD0404095993 Berlin ADN in German 0538 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Tbilisi (ADN)—Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze considers the antireformist forces in the Russian parliament to be mainly responsible for Russia's continued intervention in the Georgian-Abkhazian war. "With its decisions the Supreme Soviet effectively sanctioned the bombardment of our cities and our troop positions by Russian combat aircraft," Shevardnadze said today in Tbilisi in an interview with ADN.

At the same time the head of state warned against the spread of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. "That could have unforeseeable consequences for our neighboring countries, especially for the nascent democracy in Russia." One spark would be enough "to ignite a huge blaze of ethnic conflicts in the huge country of Russia." This would have to be prevented by the integrity and far-sightedness of the leadership of both countries.

Shevardnadze reaffirmed the great interest of the Caucasus republic in good relations with the democratic forces in Russia. "Concluding a treaty soon on the foundations of our relations could solve many of our problems and would mean a great deal for stability in the Caucasus region and throughout the world," the former

Soviet foreign minister said. As he sees it, the document would in particular have to establish the territorial integrity of both countries and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs. Also, the status of the Russian units stationed in Georgia should be clearly defined and the deadlines for their repatriation unambiguously laid down. Such a treaty would also be extremely important for overcoming the economic crisis in Georgia.

Shevardnadze Aide Links Clinton Speech to Sukhumi Bombing

AU0504133493 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 5 Apr 93 p 2

[Samo Kobenter report: "No Alternative To Support for Yeltsin"]

[Text] Vienna—The West does not have an alternative to massive political and economic support for Boris Yeltsin. Should Yeltsin fail, a chaos that would have effects far beyond the borders of the former Soviet Union would be imminent: Despite the obvious tensions between Georgia and Russia, Nodar Giorgadze, Eduard Shevardnadze's closest aide and military adviser, is convinced that the course chosen by Yeltsin is right.

In an interview with DER STANDARD, Georgian Giorgadze, highly decorated Afghanistan fighter, former Georgian defense minister, and intimate expert on the military apparatus, urgently warned against banking on the old forces. Above all, the military is trying everything to torpedo the democratization and reform of the economic system throughout the territory of the former Soviet Union, he said.

"Revanchism"

In Georgia this is being done because of cheap revanchist efforts against Shevardnadze:

"The conservative officers cannot forgive Shevardnadze for calling them back from the powerful positions that they occupied in a colonialist style throughout Europe."

The latest aggression against Georgia was also started by "Russian military circles" and was not backed by the Yeltsin administration, Giorgadze stressed:

"On 14 March at noon, U.S. President Bill Clinton promised to help Boris Yeltsin in a television speech. At the same time, a statement on support from Shevardnadze was transmitted in our country. A few hours later, the Russian ambassador was recalled from Tbilisi and on the same day Russian warplanes started bombing Sukhumi."

Open Aggression

For two weeks, Russian artillery has been bombarding Georgian territory and MiG bombers have attacked civilian targets in Georgia, "with the Russian flag openly displayed." In the attack on 1 April alone, five people were killed and 20 injured: "The military is trying to sow the seeds of discord and distrust between two friendly nations by its actions in Georgia." According to Giorgadze, in this way it is intended to shake the authority of Yeltsin and Shevardnadze and to damage their reputations abroad.

Georgia is still able to defend itself against inroads from individual Russian bases. It does not have a chance against a massive attack by the still superior Russian Army: "I am praying to God that this will not happen. Then there would be a second Afghan war, from which the whole world would have to suffer."

The attempt "by certain aggressive Russian circles to separate Abkhazia from Georgia" is counterproductive, Giorgadze warned: "If that is possible, why should it, on the other hand, not be possible to tear Ingushetia, Chechnya, or Ossetia away from Russia? From this point of view, Russia is undermining its own territorial integrity by its actions in Abkhazia."

'New' Radio Station Carries Abkhaz Leader's Appeal

LD0504001493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2022 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] A new radio station, Golos Abkhazii [Voice of Abkhazia], started broadcasting today on shortwave in the 41m waveband. In a radio address, Vladislav Ardzinba has confirmed once again the readiness of the Abkhazian side to hold a dialogue and to look for peaceful solutions to problems between Abkhazia and Georgia, provided that the Georgian authorities give up a policy of force and Georgian troops leave Abkhazia. Vladislav Ardzinba appealed to all nations, to all people of goodwill to extend the hand of fraternal help to little Abkhazia. The civilized community of nations cannot look impassively as an entire people is being wiped out before its eyes, the radio address says. A roundtable of sociopolitical parties and movements of the republics of the North Caucasus, of krays and oblasts of the southern Russia , which gathered in Pitsunda today, will discuss the situation in Abkhazia.

Deputy Minister Meets Party Leader in Abkhazia

LD0304134993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] According to information from the Iprinda agency, a meeting took place between Kavsadze, the Georgian deputy minister for human rights issues, and the leaders of the Council of National Unity [Sovet Natsionalnogo Edinstva], which unites almost all the political parties in the autonomous republic with a Georgian orientation. During the meeting, Kavsadze stated that there are two ways out of the Abkhazian crisis—by force, or by peaceful means. According to him, the Georgian leadership adheres to the view that a combination of both methods is required.

Representatives of the command of the Russian forces stationed in Abkhazia were also present at the meeting. The warring sides agreed to exchange authorized representatives, who will prepare their recommendations for the committee on the issues of prisoners of war and hostages.